OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2006 | For United States of America | *km*-E Us 1/06 | Vol. 49, No. 1

The *Bible Teach* Book —Our Primary Bible Study Aid

[1] How thrilling it was to witness the release of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* at the "Godly Obedience" District Convention! Delegates rejoiced to receive a personal copy at the close of the Saturday program. How will this new teaching tool be utilized? It is designed to be our primary Bible study aid. Although the new book will first be featured as the literature offer in March, publishers are encouraged to begin using it immediately to start and conduct Bible studies.

[2] **Current Bible Studies:** Publishers conducting Bible studies in the *Knowledge* book or *Require* brochure should use good judgment in deciding how and when to begin using the new publication during the study. If a study was started recently, you could simply start from the beginning of the new book. If you are further along in the *Knowledge* book, you might continue the study in the corresponding chapter of the *Bible Teach* book. If you are toward the end of the *Knowledge* book, you may decide to complete that publication.

[3] No doubt all of us know many people who would benefit from studying the *Bible Teach* book. Why not offer each person a Bible study in this progressive study aid? For example, those who have studied the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book but who did not progress to dedication and baptism may wish to resume their study using the new book. Parents may decide to use the publication as they impart accurate knowledge of God's will to their children.—Col. 1:9, 10.

[4] **Studying a Second Book:** Is there a provision for a Bible student to study a second book after completing *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Yes. If it is evident that a student is making progress, although slowly, and is developing appreciation for what he is learning, the Bible study may be continued using the book *Worship the Only True God.* We are confident that the *Bible Teach* book will be a powerful tool in our hands as we carry out the commission to make disciples.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

Show Personal Interest—By Asking Questions and Listening

[1] Most people enjoy expressing their views but dislike being lectured or interrogated. As Christian ministers, therefore, we need to learn the art of drawing people out with questions. —Prov. 20:5.

[2] Our questions should invite, not intimidate. When preaching from house to house, one brother asks, "Do you feel that there will ever be a time when people treat one another with dignity and respect?" Depending on the response, he follows with, "What do you think it will take to accomplish this?" or "Why do you feel that way?" When witnessing informally and in public places, another brother asks those who have children, "What do you enjoy most about being a parent?" Then he asks, "What are your greatest concerns?" Notice that these questions allow people to express their views without putting them on the spot. Since circumstances vary, we may need to adjust the topic and tone of our questions to fit those in our territory.

[3] **Drawing People Out:** If people are willing to share their thoughts, patiently listen without needlessly interrupting. (Jas. 1:19) Graciously acknowledge their comments. (Col. 4:6) You might simply say: "That's interesting. Thank you for sharing that with me." Commend them if you can do so sincerely. Kindly ask additional questions to find out what they think and why they feel as they do. Seek common ground. When you want to direct their attention to a scripture, you might say, "Have you ever considered this as a possibility?" Avoid being dogmatic or argumentative. —2 Tim. 2:24, 25.

[4] How others respond to our questions may depend much on how we listen. People can tell if we are listening with our heart. A traveling overseer observed, "When you show patient willingness to listen to people, it has the amazing power to attract and is a wonderful expression of warm personal interest." Listening to others accords them honor, and it may move them to listen to the good news that we seek to share.—Rom. 12:10.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 9

Song 10

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show a publisher working business territory.

15 min: "The *Bible Teach* Book —Our Primary Bible Study Aid."* Generate enthusiasm for starting Bible studies in the new book.

20 min: "How to Start Studies in the *Bible Teach* Book." Audience discussion with demonstrations based on page 3 of the insert. We can begin using the *Bible Teach* book immediately to start and conduct Bible studies with those who show interest. Arrange for three well-prepared demonstrations showing how to use (1) pages 4-5, (2) page 6, and (3) the first paragraph on page 7 to start a Bible study when making a return visit. Outline each presentation beforehand, and review it afterward. The consideration of the paragraphs in the *Bible Teach* book may be abbreviated as needed. Conclude each demonstration with the publisher arranging the next visit.
Song 125 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 16

Song 178

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* in preparation for the discussion that will be held in two weeks at the Service Meeting.

15 min: Organized to Do Jehovah's Will. Talk and audience discussion based on pages 4-7 of the book *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.* Following an introduction of less than three minutes based on page 4, conduct an audience discussion of page 5 to the subheading on page 7. Further portions of the *Organized* book will be considered at future Service Meetings.

20 min: "Young People Who Are Shining as Illuminators."* Invite youths to comment on how they have been able to witness at school. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.
Song 107 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 23

Song 60

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!* Have a youth give one of the presentations.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Show Personal Interest —By Asking Questions and Listening."* When discussing paragraph 2, ask the audience what questions they have found to be effective for starting conversations. Demonstrate how to draw a person out by using tactful questions and listening attentively.
Song 205 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 30

Song 197

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Mention the literature offer for February, and have one presentation demonstrated.

15 min: Loving Provisions for Our Benefit. To be handled by an elder. Read and discuss the January 3, 2006, letter from the branch office to all congregations concerning ways to benefit from the activities of the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) and the Patient Visitation Group (PVG).

20 min: "A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend." Read Acts 15:28, 29, and briefly emphasize that the principal reason why Christians refuse blood transfusions is to honor God's law on the sanctity of blood. Then get right into a discussion of the *Patient Needs and Rights* video, using the questions that are provided in the article. Conclude by reading the last paragraph.
Song 45 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 6

Song 74

10 min: Local announcements.

25 min: Getting to Know Our New Teaching Tool. Talk and audience discussion. Invite audience to comment on features of the *Bible Teach* book that they appreciate, such as the introductory questions and review box that highlight the main points of each chapter (pp. 106, 114), the visual aids (pp. 122-3, 147, 198), and the appendix (p. 197, pars. 1-2). The book's tone is warm and appealing (p. 12, par. 12). It gives simple, clear explanations (p. 58, par. 5) and uses effective word pictures (p. 159, par. 12). The preface is designed to help us start Bible studies (pp. 3-7). Demonstrate how to use the box on page 7 with a new Bible student. Relate experiences that have been enjoyed using the new book.

10 min: Auxiliary Pioneering Brings Blessings. (Prov. 10:22) Invite those who served as auxiliary pioneers last spring to relate how they arranged to do so and what joys and blessings they experienced as a result. Encourage all to consider prayerfully whether they can auxiliary pioneer during March, April, and May.

Song 16 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	185	101.3	83.7	44.5	4.7
Pios.	95,094	67.3	45.6	20.6	1.9
Aux. Pios.	24,664	50.8	37.1	13.0	1.1
Pubs.	881,640	9.4	8.4	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	1,001,583		Baptized:	1,612	

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How to Start Studies in the *Bible Teach* Book

Many of us would be delighted to conduct a Bible study if only we could get the study started. The new book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* can help us. The preface on pages 3-7 is designed to get the householder into a Bible discussion using the publication. Even those with limited experience in the ministry will find it easy to use to start studies.

■ *You might try this approach using page 3:*

After mentioning a news item or a problem that is on the minds of people in your territory, direct the householder's attention to the questions in bold type on page 3, and invite him to comment. Then turn to pages 4-5.

■ *Or you might prefer to start by highlighting pages 4-5:*

You could say, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the changes pictured here actually took place?" Or you might ask, "Which of these promises would you like to see fulfilled?" Listen carefully to the response.

If the householder shows a special interest in one of the scriptures, show him what the Bible teaches on that subject by considering the paragraphs in the book that discuss that text. (See box on this page of insert.) Consider the material just as you would on a Bible study. This can be done in five to ten minutes on the initial call right at the doorstep.

■ *Another approach is to draw the person out using page 6:*

Direct the householder's attention to the questions at the bottom of the page, and ask, "Have you ever wondered about any of these questions?" If he expresses interest in one of the questions, turn to the paragraphs in the book that answer the question. (See box on this page of insert.) As you consider the information together, you are conducting a Bible study.

■ *Page 7 may be used to lead into a demonstration of a Bible study:*

Read the first three sentences on the page, and then turn to chapter 3 and demonstrate a study using paragraphs 1-3. Arrange to return to discuss the answers to the questions in paragraph 3.

■ *How to arrange to return:*

When concluding the initial study, arrange to continue the discussion. You might simply say: "In just a few minutes, we learned what the Bible teaches on an important subject. Next time, we can discuss [leave a question that will be considered]. May I stop by at this same time next week?"

As we draw closer to Jehovah's appointed time, he continues to equip us for the task at hand. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 2 Tim. 3:17) Let us make good use of this marvelous new tool to start Bible studies.

Discussion of Scriptures on Pages 4-5

- ☐ Revelation 21:4 (pp. 27-8, pars. 1-3)
- ☐ Isaiah 33:24; 35:5, 6 (p. 36, par. 22)
- ☐ John 5:28, 29 (pp. 72-3, pars. 17-19)
- ☐ Psalm 72:16 (p. 34, par. 19)

Answers to Questions on Page 6

- ☐ Why do we suffer? (pp. 108-9, pars. 6-8)
- ☐ How can we cope with life's anxieties? (pp. 184-5, pars. 1-3)
- ☐ How can we make our family life happier? (p. 143, par. 20)
- ☐ What happens to us when we die? (pp. 58-9, pars. 5-6)
- ☐ Will we ever see our dead loved ones again? (pp. 72-3, pars. 17-19)
- ☐ How can we be sure that God will fulfill his promises for the future? (p. 25, par. 17)

How to Offer the *Bible Teach* Book

This insert includes a variety of suggestions for offering the *Bible Teach* book. To be most effective, put them in your own words, tailor your approach to the people in your territory, and become familiar with talking points in the book. Other presentations that are practical for your territory may also be used. —See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8.

Armageddon

■ "When people hear the word 'Armageddon,' many think of mass destruction. Would it surprise you to learn that Armageddon is actually something to look forward to? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 16:14, 16.] Notice this comment on what life will be like after Armageddon." Turn to pages 82-4, and read paragraph 21.

Bible

■ "People often refer to the Bible as God's Word. Have you ever wondered how a book that was penned by men could rightly be called the Word of God? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Peter 1: 21 and paragraph 5 on pages 19-20.] This publication gives the Bible's answers to these questions." Show the questions on page 6.

■ "Nowadays, people have access to more information than ever before. But where do you think we can find sound counsel that can help us to lead happy, successful lives? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 and paragraph 12 on page 23.] This publication explains how we can live in a way that pleases God and benefits us." Show the chart and the picture on pages 122-3.

Death/Resurrection

■ "Many people wonder what really happens at death. Do you think it is possible for us to know? [Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 9:5 and paragraphs 5-6 on pages 58-9.] This book also explains what the Bible's promise of a resurrection will mean for those who have died." Show the picture on page 75.

■ "When someone we love dies, it's natural to want to see that person again. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] Many have found comfort in the Bible's promise of a resurrection. [Read John 5:28, 29 and paragraphs 16-17 on pages 71-2.] This chapter also answers these questions." Show the introductory questions on page 66.

Everlasting Life

■ "Most people desire good health and a long life. But if it was possible, would you want to live forever? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 21:3, 4 and paragraph 17 on page 54.] This book discusses how we can gain everlasting life and what life will be like when that promise becomes a reality."

Family

■ "All of us are interested in having a happy family life. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] The Bible speaks of something that everyone in the family can do to contribute to family happiness—imitate God in showing love." Read Ephesians 5:1, 2 and paragraph 4 on page 135.

Housing

■ "In many places, finding a decent place to live that is affordable has become more difficult. Do you think that one day there will be adequate housing for everyone? [Allow for response. Then

read Isaiah 65:21, 22 and paragraph 20 on page 34.] This publication explains how this promise from God will be fulfilled."

Jehovah God

■ "Many people who believe in God would like to feel closer to him. Did you know that the Bible invites us to draw close to him? [Allow for response. Then read James 4:8a and paragraph 20 on page 16.] This publication has been prepared to help people to learn more about God, using their own copy of the Bible." Show introductory questions on page 8.

■ "Many people pray for God's name to be sanctified, or hallowed. Have you ever wondered what that name is? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 83:18 and paragraphs 2-3 on page 195.] This book explains what the Bible really teaches about Jehovah God and his purpose for mankind."

Jesus Christ

■ "People around the earth have heard of Jesus Christ. Some say he was no more than an outstanding man. Others worship him as God Almighty. Do you think it matters what we believe about Jesus Christ?" Allow for response. Then read John 17:3 and paragraph 3 on pages 37-8. Direct attention to the introductory questions below the chapter title.

Prayer

■ "Have you ever wondered how God answers prayers? [Allow for response. Then read 1 John 5:14, 15 and paragraphs 16-18 on pages 170-2.] This chapter also explains why we should pray to God and what we must do to be heard by him."

Religion

■ "Many people are beginning to view the world's religions as a cause of mankind's problems rather than a solution. Do you think religion is leading people in the right direction? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 7:13, 14 and paragraph 5 on pages 145-6.] This chapter examines six features that identify the worship that God approves." Show list on page 147.

Tragedy/Suffering

■ "When a tragedy occurs, many question whether God really cares about people and notices their suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Peter 5:7 and paragraph 11 on page 11.] This publication explains how God will completely eliminate mankind's suffering." Show introductory questions on page 106.

War/Peace

■ "People everywhere long for peace. Do you think that the hope of peace on earth is just a dream? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 46:8, 9.] This publication discusses how God will fulfill his purpose and bring about global peace." Show the picture on page 35, and consider paragraphs 17-21 on pages 33-4.

Ways to Mention the Donation Arrangement

"If you would like to make a small donation today toward our worldwide work, I will gladly accept it."

"Although our literature is offered without charge, we do accept modest donations for our worldwide work."

"You may wonder how we can afford to do this work. It is because our worldwide work is supported by voluntary donations. If you wish to make a small donation today, I will be pleased to accept it."

(1) Question, (2) Scripture, and (3) Chapter

A simple way to present *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* is to (1) raise a viewpoint question, (2) read an appropriate scripture, and (3) feature a chapter in the book that discusses that subject by reading the introductory questions under the chapter title. If the householder shows interest, you may be able to demonstrate a Bible study using the opening paragraphs of that chapter. This approach can be used to start a study when making the initial call or a return visit.

■ "Do you think it is possible for mere humans to come to know our almighty Creator, as stated here in the Bible?" Read Acts 17:26, 27, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 1.

■ "With the challenges we face today, do you think it is possible to find the comfort and hope described here?" Read Romans 15:4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 2.

■ "If you had the power to do so, would you bring about these changes?" Read Revelation 21:4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.

■ "Do you think our children will ever be able to enjoy the conditions described in this ancient song?" Read Psalm 37:10, 11, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.

■ "Do you think the day will ever come when these words are fulfilled?" Read Isaiah 33:24, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 3.

■ "Have you ever wondered if the dead know what the living are doing?" Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 9:5, and feature chapter 6.

■ "Do you think it is possible that we will one day see our dead loved ones again, as Jesus stated in these verses?" Read John 5:28, 29, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 7.

■ "What do you think it would take for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, as mentioned in this famous prayer?" Read Matthew 6:9, 10, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 8.

■ "Do you think we are living in the time period that is described in this prophecy?" Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 9.

■ "Many people wonder why mankind's problems seem to be getting worse. Have you ever considered this as a possibility?" Read Revelation 12:9, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 10.

■ "Have you ever wanted to know the answer to a question like this?" Read Job 21:7, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 11.

■ "Do you think that applying this advice from the Bible would help people to enjoy a happy family life?" Read Ephesians 5:33, and allow for response. Then feature chapter 14.

A Bible study may be reported when it has been conducted two times after the study arrangement was demonstrated and if there is reason to believe that the study will continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** Any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ Since April has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 5, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "You Can Enjoy Life in Peace Now —And Forever!"

■ Congregations should make appropriate arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Wednesday, April 12, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Each congregation should try to hold its own Memorial observance. However, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ As a reminder, the return address of the branch office should never be used on any personal correspondence. This includes all letters and items of literature that are mailed to give a witness to interested people, to not-at-homes, or to those who live in inaccessible places. A publisher may wish to use his personal return address, since his ministry involves his personal service to God. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Rom. 10:14, 15) However, if he feels that it would be unwise to use his own return address when witnessing by letter, he may use his name and the return address of the Kingdom Hall.—See the May 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend

Legal and health-care professionals are giving increased attention to the ethical views and rights of medical patients. This has promoted new therapies and approaches from which Jehovah's Witnesses can benefit. (Acts 15:28, 29) That is the focus of the video *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights.* Watch it, and then review what you learned.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with young children.

(1) Why are some in the medical community reevaluating the use of blood transfusions? **(2)** Give three examples of complex surgeries that may be performed without blood transfusions. **(3)** How many physicians and surgeons worldwide have indicated their willingness to treat patients without blood transfusions? Why are they willing to do so? **(4)** What have recent hospital studies revealed about blood use? **(5)** What are the medical risks associated with blood transfusions? **(6)** What conclusion have many experts reached regarding the benefits of transfusion alternatives? **(7)** What causes anemia? How tolerable is it in humans? What can be done to compensate for it? **(8)** How can red-cell production be stimulated in a patient's body? **(9)** What techniques are being used to minimize blood loss during surgery? **(10)** Can transfusion alternatives work for young children or for people involved in life-threatening emergencies? **(11)** What is one of the primary ethical principles of good medical care? **(12)** Why is it important for Christians to make nonblood treatment choices in advance? How can we do this?

Acceptance of some treatments featured in the video is a matter for private decision in accord with each one's Bible-trained conscience. Have you decided which transfusion alternatives you are willing to accept for yourself and your children? Non-Witness family members should also be fully informed of your decisions and the reasons for them. —See "Questions From Readers" in the June 15, 2004, and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.*

Young People Who Are Shining as Illuminators

[1] Jesus told his disciples: "You are the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14, 16) Like a city situated on a hilltop, gleaming in the sunlight, they would stand out. Today, many young Christians are "shining as illuminators in the world" by their upright conduct and zealous witnessing.—Phil. 2:15; Mal. 3:18.

[2] **At School:** How might you give a witness at school? Some youths have taken advantage of class discussions on such subjects as drugs, evolution, and the Holocaust—to name just a few. One sister used an assigned essay on terrorism to give a witness about God's Kingdom as the real hope for mankind. The teacher was impressed by the well-thought-out report, and this opened the way for a further witness.

[3] Another way to shine as an illuminator is by your conduct and modest dress and grooming. (1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Tim. 2:9) When students and teachers *see* that your deportment is different, some may be drawn to the truth as a result of your fine conduct and give you an opportunity to share Bible truths. (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1, 2) Displaying godly conduct may not be easy, but Jehovah will bless you richly. (1 Pet. 3:16, 17; 4:14) To arouse interest in the good news, you may read Bible literature during breaks or leave it where others can see it.

1. How does the Bible indicate that Christians would stand out, and how do those words apply to Christian youths today?
2. What are some ways you can witness to teachers and classmates?
3. How can you let your light shine at school through your conduct?

[4] Letting your light shine at school strengthens your faith and helps you build a wholesome pride in serving Jehovah. (Jer. 9:24) It likewise serves as a protection. One sister said, "One benefit of speaking about my beliefs is that students do not try to pressure me into doing things that are not in harmony with what the Bible says."

[5] **Expanded Service:** Another way in which many youths are shining as illuminators is by expanding their ministry. After finishing high school, one brother moved to serve where there was a greater need for Kingdom proclaimers. He was part of a small congregation with only one elder. "I am having the time of my life here," he wrote to a friend. "The ministry is so refreshing! We talk for about 20 minutes at each door because people want to hear all you can tell them." He added: "I just wish that every young person would do something like this and feel what I feel. There is nothing better than to serve Jehovah with all we have."

[6] How proud we are of you young people who are shining as illuminators in the world! (1 Thess. 2:20) As you serve Jehovah with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, you will reap "a hundredfold now in this period of time . . . and in the coming system of things everlasting life."—Mark 10:29, 30; 12:30.

4. What are some benefits of witnessing at school?
5. (a) How are some youths expanding their ministry? (b) What are your spiritual goals?
6. What do you appreciate about the young people in your congregation?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® Jan. 15

"In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in angels. Have you ever wondered who they are and how they affect our lives? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 34:7.] This magazine considers what the Bible says about the activities of the angels—past, present, and future."

Awake!® Jan.

"Advice is available today on virtually every subject. How much of it do you think we can trust? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This issue of *Awake!* shows why we can look to the Bible as a reliable source of practical wisdom." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

The Watchtower® Feb. 1

"All of us need money in order to live. But would you agree that there is a need to guard against the danger mentioned here? [Read 1 Timothy 6:10, and allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* helps us to identify some of the common pitfalls of material prosperity and discusses how to avoid them."

Awake!® Feb.

"Many of us who have elderly relatives and friends wonder how we can help them meet the challenges of old age. Isn't that so? [Allow for response.] This magazine suggests things that we can do to make growing older more bearable. It also explains how this prophecy will be fulfilled." Read Job 33:25.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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Create Opportunities to Preach

[1] The Christian congregation is made up of people with a wide variety of circumstances. Yet, we are united in our determination to praise Jehovah. (Ps. 79:13) If poor health or other challenging circumstances limit our share in proclaiming the good news, how can we create opportunities to preach?

[2] **In Daily Activities:** Jesus took advantage of his everyday dealings with people to give a witness. He spoke to Matthew while passing a tax office, to Zacchaeus while traveling, and to a Samaritan woman while resting. (Matt. 9:9; Luke 19:1-5; John 4:6-10) In our daily activities, we too can turn an ordinary conversation into a witness. Having a Bible handy, along with tracts or brochures, will encourage us to be ready to speak about our hope.—1 Pet. 3:15.

[3] Does impaired mobility limit your participation in the door-to-door work? Be alert to opportunities to witness to visiting medical personnel and others with whom you come in contact. (Acts 28:30, 31) If circumstances often keep you at home, have you tried witnessing by telephone or by letter? One sister regularly writes to non-Witness family members. She includes encouraging thoughts from the Bible and experiences she has had while witnessing.

[4] **At Work or School:** Our desire to praise Jehovah will also move us to create opportunities to plant seeds of truth at work or school. An eight-year-old publisher shared with his class what he read in *Awake!* about the moon. After learning where he got the information, his teacher began accepting *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* on a regular basis. At the workplace, our simply keeping a copy of the *Bible Teach* book where others can see it may prompt questions and lead to a witness.

[5] Can you think of ways to create opportunities to preach in your daily activities? By making the most of our circumstances, may we strive each day to "offer to God a sacrifice of praise."—Heb. 13:15.

Show Personal Interest —By Being Prepared

[1] Good preparation for the ministry helps us to show personal interest in others. How so? When we are well prepared, we are less preoccupied with our presentation and so can give greater attention to the householder. Further, it helps us to overcome nervousness and allows us to speak from the heart. How, though, can we prepare an effective presentation?

[2] **Use a Presentation That Fits:** Select from the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* one of the suggested presentations that is appropriate for your area, and consider how you can put it in your own words. Adapt it to your territory. For example, if you are likely to meet people of a certain religious or ethnic background, think of how your presentation can appeal to them. Tailoring your approach to the individuals with whom you speak reflects sincere interest in them. —1 Cor. 9:22.

[3] As you begin using the presentation, continue to refine it. Since the opening words are especially important, note how people respond to your introduction. Does the subject interest them? Do the questions you pose bring a response? If not, make adjustments until you find an approach that works.

[4] **Memory Aids:** Many find it a challenge to remember a presentation when they are at the door. If you find that to be so, have you tried having practice sessions in which you give the presentation out loud to another person? This can help you to get the ideas clearly in mind and present them in a simple, logical manner. It can also prepare you to handle the variety of responses you may get.

[5] Another memory aid is to write a short summary of the presentation on an index card and glance at it just before you approach the door. Some find that this brief reminder helps them to be more relaxed and better able to converse with people. In these ways, good preparation can help us to show personal interest in others and thus enhance our presentation of the good news.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 13

Song 121

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the February 15 *Watchtower* and the February *Awake!* In one presentation, demonstrate witnessing in a public place.

10 min: Are You Keeping Pace With Jehovah's Organization? A talk based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pages 7-10.

25 min: "Draw Attention to 'the Light of the World.'"* To be handled by the service overseer. Announce the names of those who have enrolled as auxiliary pioneers. Outline extra meetings for field service that have been arranged. Include comments on the sample auxiliary pioneer schedules on page 5 of the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 20

Song 89

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Create Opportunities to Preach."* Invite a publisher who has challenging circumstances to comment on how he or she has been able to create opportunities to witness.

20 min: "A Help That Is Readily to Be Found."* To be handled by an elder. Include brief comments on the November 1998 and November 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Boxes.

Song 1 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 27

Song 20

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present either the March 1 *Watchtower* or the March *Awake!*

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: How to Offer the *Bible Teach* Book. During March we will offer the new book. Using the suggestions in the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, pages 3-6, review and demonstrate several presentations that are well suited for the local territory. Invite audience to relate outstanding experiences they have enjoyed using the new book, especially Bible studies that have been started.

Song 148 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 6

Song 51

10 min: Local announcements. Because tracts are easy to carry and visually appealing, they are useful for starting conversations when engaging in the house-to-house ministry, when preaching in public places, and when witnessing informally. Demonstrate how to start a conversation using the new tract *All Suffering Soon to End!* Highlight one of the quoted scriptures on page 2 of the tract.

15 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Being Prepared."* Include a brief demonstration showing two publishers preparing to offer the *Bible Teach* book. They select a presentation from the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert and discuss how they can put it in their own words and adapt it to the local territory. The demonstration concludes as they are about to rehearse the presentation together out loud.

20 min: "Use Visual Aids That Teach."* As you discuss each video mentioned in the article, show the cover and read a brief excerpt describing the contents. Ask the audience to relate experiences they have had in using videos in their ministry.—See the *1997 Yearbook,* p. 54, and the *1995 Yearbook,* pp. 50-1.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	179	102.4	85.0	47.2	4.9
Pios.	96,779	66.9	44.8	20.6	1.9
Aux. Pios.	41,687	49.6	37.8	12.4	1.0
Pubs.	859,069	9.6	8.6	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	997,714			Baptized:	2,152

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 96,779 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 727 over the previous peak of 96,052 in December of 2004.

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Draw Attention to "the Light of the World"

[1] Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah foretold: "The people that were walking in the darkness have seen a great light. As for those dwelling in the land of deep shadow, light itself has shone upon them." (Isa. 9:2) That "great light" was seen in the works of God's own Son, Jesus Christ. His work while on earth and the blessings resulting from his sacrifice uplifted those who were in darkness spiritually. Such light is what people need in these darkened times. The Lord's Evening Meal provides a special opportunity for us to draw attention to "the light of the world." (John 8:12) Last year, millions displayed a measure of faith by joining us in obeying Jesus' command: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) As this year's Memorial observance approaches, how can we share in calling attention to the great light that Jehovah has caused to shine forth?—Phil. 2:15.

[2] **Build Heart Appreciation:** The Memorial season is an opportune time to meditate on the great love that Jehovah and Jesus showed in providing the ransom sacrifice for mankind. (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15) Doing so will no doubt intensify our heart appreciation for this sacred occasion. All of God's people will want to set aside time to read and meditate on the special Memorial Bible reading, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily.* Thinking of Jehovah's matchless qualities, which are so gloriously revealed in his provision of the ransom, makes us proud to have him as our God. Reflecting upon what the ransom means for us personally intensifies our heartfelt love for God and his Son and motivates us to exert ourselves in doing God's will.—Gal. 2:20.

[3] If we deepen our appreciation for Jehovah's provision of salvation, our enthusiasm for the Memorial will radiate to Bible students, return visits, relatives, neighbors, schoolmates, workmates, and others whom we invite to this special occasion. (Luke 6:45) Therefore, make a special effort to invite all such ones, providing a printed Memorial invitation to serve as a reminder to them. So as not to forget anyone, many have found it practical to maintain a list of those they regularly invite to the Memorial, adding new ones annually. Taking an organized approach and earnestly following through in inviting interested ones would be a fine way of expressing our gratitude to Jehovah God "for his indescribable free gift."—2 Cor. 9:15.

[4] **Increased Share in the Ministry:** Can you increase your share in the ministry during March and April? Endeavoring to share with others "the glorious good news about the Christ" will surely have God's blessing. Jehovah, as the Source of all spiritual enlightenment, has commanded: "Let the light shine out of darkness." (2 Cor. 4:4-6) As needed, the elders will arrange to have meetings for field service at extra times and locations, taking the lead to support longer witnessing periods. This may include early-morning street work or arrangements to do business territory

1. What great light was foretold in God's Word, and what occasion draws special attention to this light?

2. How can we intensify our heart appreciation for the ransom sacrifice, and what effect will doing so have?

3. How can we demonstrate our appreciation for the Memorial?

4. What can help us to increase our share in the ministry during March and April?

and telephone witnessing in the afternoon or early evening. As an aid to increasing your share in the ministry, set a reasonable goal of hours, and work hard to attain it. For many, giving Jehovah their best includes the privilege of auxiliary pioneering.—Col. 3:23, 24.

5 **Can You Auxiliary Pioneer?** It has now been over seven years since the hour requirement for auxiliary pioneering was reduced. This adjustment has made it possible for many more to experience the blessings of auxiliary pioneer service. Have you tried it? Some make it their custom to do so each year. In many congregations dozens of publishers take up this form of service together, and it becomes a rewarding highlight of the congregation's activity during the year. Can you make room for a joyful month of auxiliary pioneering during the Memorial season? April may be an especially good month for some, since it has five full weekends.

6 Is your congregation scheduled to have the visit of the circuit overseer during March or April? An added blessing may be open to you. As was previously announced, during the 2006 service year, all who are serving as auxiliary pioneers during the month in which the circuit overseer visits will be invited to attend the first half of the meeting held with the pioneers during the week of the visit. No doubt the spiritually strengthening information provided at this meeting will assist many auxiliary pioneers to reach out to become regular pioneers. In addition, during March we will have the joy of assisting people to come into the spiritual light by means of the new study publication *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Why not make it your goal to start a Bible study in the new book?

5. How are many benefiting from the reduced hour requirement for auxiliary pioneering?
6. What exciting provisions have been made available?

7 As you consider the auxiliary pioneer requirement of 50 hours, determine what schedule will allow you to shine forth the light of truth for about 12 hours each week. Talk it over with those who have successfully done so, as well as with others. This may encourage them to join you. With good planning, baptized publishers, young and old alike, have found that it was not too difficult to reach this commendable goal. Pray about it. Then, if possible, make your plans, and enjoy auxiliary pioneering!—Mal. 3:10.

8 Many families have found that a well-coordinated effort can make it possible for at least one family member to attain this goal. One family decided that all five baptized members would enroll as auxiliary pioneers. Two other children who were not yet baptized made a special effort to increase their activity. How did the family benefit from making an extra effort? They wrote: "It was such an agreeable month, and we strongly felt that the family bonds were strengthened. We thank Jehovah for the wonderful blessing!"

9 Will our special activity during March and April prove to be stimulating, drawing us closer to our heavenly Father? Much will depend on the personal effort we put forth toward intensifying our love for God and his Son and increasing our share in the ministry. May our resolve be like that of the psalmist, who sang: "I shall laud Jehovah very much with my mouth, and in among many people I shall praise him." (Ps. 109: 30) Jehovah will bless our zealous activity this Memorial season. So may we let a great light shine forth so that many more can come out of darkness and "possess the light of life."—John 8:12.

7, 8. (a) What can help us to make a schedule to auxiliary pioneer? (b) How can family cooperation help, and how does the entire family benefit?
9. How can we let our light shine during this Memorial season?

A Help That Is Readily to Be Found

[1] Anna, a sister with an unbelieving husband and a demanding work schedule, found it a struggle to attend Christian meetings regularly, participate in the ministry, and study God's Word. Though she still loved Jehovah, she became inactive. Happily, she received spiritual assistance from concerned elders.

[2] Accepting the spiritual help offered through the Christian congregation demonstrates reliance on Jehovah himself. In imitation of Jesus Christ's loving care, the older men in the congregation seek opportunities to offer encouragement and practical assistance to those experiencing spiritual difficulty. (1 Thess. 5:14) Oftentimes, a kind word of encouragement centered on reassuring Scriptural passages can be just what is needed. Reaching out to support those in a temporarily weak condition is of concern to all Christians, not just the elders. No doubt each of us has experienced the power of a thoughtful "word spoken at the right time for it."—Prov. 25:11; Isa. 35:3, 4.

[3] **Take the Initiative:** Showing loving interest in those who need help requires that we take the initiative, show fellow feeling, and be earnest. When Jonathan became aware of David's distressing situation, he "rose up and went to David at Horesh, that he might strengthen his hand." (1 Sam. 23:15, 16) Use a gentle approach to help others. Words motivated by genuine concern yield the best results. Furthermore, Jesus clearly illustrated that diligent, purposeful effort is involved in regaining a spiritual brother or sister. (Luke 15:4) Having an earnest desire to assist another person will move us to persevere in offering help even if progress is not quickly manifest.

[4] How encouraging it is when we take the initiative to invite others, such as those in our book study, to accompany us in the ministry! As we assist a fellow servant of Jehovah to engage in the ministry, we may use the opportunity to strengthen that one's hand. Such joyful times spent together in Jehovah's service are especially encouraging to those who are recovering their spiritual balance.

[5] **A Loving Provision:** Those who have not shared in the preaching work or associated with the congregation for some time may need additional help to build up their faith. A personal Bible study in a publication such as *Worship the Only True God*, *Draw Close to Jehovah*, or *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* may be just what is needed. Since the person is already baptized, generally the study need not be continued for a prolonged period. The Congregation Service Committee should be alert to observe who might benefit from this provision.—See the November 1998 and November 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Boxes.

[6] Anna, mentioned earlier, gratefully accepted the elders' offer to have a spiritually mature sister conduct a Bible study with her. It took just four study sessions to help her draw close to Jehovah once again. She resumed attending congregation meetings and rekindled her desire to praise Jehovah God publicly. The mature sister also helped her in the ministry by taking her on other Bible studies until she was sufficiently strengthened to preach from door to door. A helping hand was all that she needed to get going again!

[7] Strengthening those in need brings blessings to all. The one being helped enjoys the happiness of drawing close to Jehovah and becoming involved with the activities of His organization. The elders rejoice to see such spiritual progress. (Luke 15:5, 6) The congregation is drawn together in unity as all show loving concern for one another. (Col. 3:12-14) What good reasons we have to imitate Jehovah, a help that is readily to be found!—Eph. 5:1.

1. How can one's spirituality weaken?
2. In what way can all Christians prove to be a help that is readily to be found?
3, 4. What is involved in helping others, and how may we do so?
5. In some circumstances, what assistance may the elders offer?
6. How did one sister regain spiritual strength?
7. What benefits come from strengthening others spiritually?

Enjoy Our Study of *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

[1] An exciting feature of the "Godly Obedience" District Conventions was the release of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* We will soon be using it extensively in our field ministry, especially when we conduct home Bible studies. Therefore, we need to become well acquainted with this new publication. That will be possible because we will be studying it at the Congregation Book Study beginning the week of April 17, 2006.

[2] The Congregation Book Study overseer will call attention to the questions that appear at the start of each chapter. Then the study will be conducted by using the questions at the bottom of the page. Key scriptures will be read and discussed, and the box "What the Bible Teaches" at the end of each chapter will be helpful in reviewing the material because the box contains the Scriptural answers to the chapter's introductory questions. You will enjoy commenting, since this book covers subjects in a clear, simple, and interesting way.

[3] The appendix of this book provides details on various topics. We will be able to use this material when Bible students need more information on a certain subject. Portions of the appendix will at times be covered during the Congregation Book Study. All the appendix material on a topic will be read by the book study reader, and the longer articles can be covered in sections. Study questions do not appear in the appendix. But the overseer can draw comments from those present by asking questions that highlight main points.

[4] Studies of the *Bible Teach* book will move along briskly at the Congregation Book Study. We are not expected to keep that pace when we study this publication with others, particularly if they have little or no Bible knowledge. (Acts 26: 28, 29) During home Bible studies, we will need to discuss scriptures more thoroughly, explain illustrations, and so forth. So make it your goal to be in attendance every week and to share fully in our study of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Study schedule for the weeks of April 17, 2006, through January 1, 2007.

WEEK OF	CHAPTER	PARAGRAPHS	APPENDIX
Apr. 17	1*	1-13	
Apr. 24	1	14-24	pp. 195-7
May 1	2	1-17	
May 8	2	18-20	pp. 199-201
May 15	3	1-12	
May 22	3	13-24	
May 29	4	1-11	pp. 197-9
June 5	4	12-22	pp. 201-4
June 12	5	1-13	pp. 204-6
June 19	5	14-22	pp. 206-8
June 26	6	1-6	pp. 208-11
July 3	6	7-20	
July 10	7	1-15	
July 17	7	16-25	pp. 212-15
July 24	8	1-17	
July 31	8	18-23	pp. 215-18
Aug. 7	9	1-9	pp. 218-19
Aug. 14	9	10-18	
Aug. 21	10	1-9	
Aug. 28	10	10-19	
Sept. 4	11	1-11	
Sept. 11	11	12-21	
Sept. 18	12	1-16	
Sept. 25	12	17-22	
Oct. 2	13	1-9	
Oct. 9	13	10-19	
Oct. 16	14	1-13	
Oct. 23	14	14-21	
Oct. 30	15	1-14	
Nov. 6	15	15-20	pp. 219-20
Nov. 13	16	1-10	pp. 221-2
Nov. 20	16	11-19	pp. 222-3
Nov. 27	17	1-11	
Dec. 4	17	12-20	
Dec. 11	18	1-13	
Dec. 18	18	14-25	
Dec. 25	19	1-14	
Jan. 1	19	15-23	

Read and briefly discuss as many cited scriptures as time permits. All paragraphs, both in the main text and in the appendix, should be read. Discuss the box "What the Bible Teaches" after considering the last paragraph in the chapter.

* Include preface, pages 3-7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book.

■ Since April has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The special public talk for the 2006 Memorial season will be entitled "Is God Still in Control?" See the related announcement in the September 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

■ The article on page 6 entitled "Enjoy Our Study of *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*" will be considered at the Service Meeting the week of April 3. Please save that article and the accompanying study schedule.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

■ Regional Building Committees have sample corporation and trusteeship documents to be used for congregation property ownership. When it becomes necessary to update these legal papers, the elders should obtain the latest samples from their regional committee.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 27, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 2 through February 27, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. In what ways does the Theocratic Ministry School help us to 'offer to God a sacrifice of praise and to make public declaration to his name'? (Heb. 13:15) [*be* p. 5 par. 3–p. 6 par. 1]
2. Why should we put forth diligent effort to read accurately? [*be* p. 83 pars. 1-5]
3. When we are speaking and teaching, why is clear speech so important? [*be* p. 86 pars. 1-6]
4. Why is correct pronunciation important, and what factors need to be considered? [*be* p. 89 par. 1–p. 90 par. 2, box]
5. What are some suggestions to help us become more fluent in conversation? [*be* p. 94 pars. 4-5, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How does 2 Chronicles 36:17-23 verify the reliability of Bible prophecy? [*si* p. 84 par. 35]
7. What chain of events made it possible for the Jews to return to their homeland in 537 B.C.E. in order to rebuild the house of Jehovah? [*si* p. 85 pars. 1-3]
8. How does the book of Ezra vindicate Jehovah as the true God and build confidence in him? [*si* p. 87 pars. 14, 18]
9. Why is "the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king" important in Bible chronology? (Neh. 2:1, 5, 6, 11, 17, 18) [*si* p. 88 pars. 2, 5]
10. How is Nehemiah a good example for God's servants today? [*si* p. 90 pars. 16-17]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Were the Urim and the Thummim, which were used when an answer was needed from Jehovah, available to the returning exiles? (Ezra 2:61-63)
12. Why were many Jews in Babylon reluctant to go up to Jerusalem with Ezra? (Ezra 7:28–8:20)
13. How could the work of rebuilding the wall be done with just one hand? (Neh. 4:17, 18)
14. Since confidential letters were usually placed in a sealed bag, why did Sanballat send "an open letter" to Nehemiah? (Neh. 6:5)
15. In addition to 'finding fault' with the backsliding Jews, as he had done earlier with the princes and the nobles, what other corrective measures did Nehemiah take? (Neh. 13:25, 28)

Use Visual Aids That Teach

[1] To convey important information to his ancient servants, Jehovah at times used visions and dreams. Think of Ezekiel's vision of Jehovah's celestial chariot. (Ezek. 1:1-28) Imagine how Daniel felt after receiving the prophetic dream depicting the march of world powers. (Dan. 7:1-15, 28) And what about the electrifying revelation presented "in signs" to the apostle John regarding things that would take place during "the Lord's day"? (Rev. 1:1, 10) Jehovah taught them using vivid color and dynamic action, and it made a lasting impression on their minds.

[2] If we want to convey Bible truths to others with an impact that will not easily be forgotten, we can likewise use our videos to teach. Our videos cover a wide range of topics and build confidence in the Bible, in Jehovah's organization, and in principles that enhance Christian living. Consider a few ways we can use our videos to teach. The following are a sample of the videos that may be used.

[3] **In the Ministry:** Have you been *telling* a Bible student about our global Christian brotherhood? *Show* it to him with the video *Our Whole Association of Brothers.* Either lend it to him to watch before your next study or view it together during an upcoming session. Then discuss the review questions found in the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

[4] Youths, you might speak to your teacher about the possibility of showing your class the video documentaries *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault* or *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union.* Offer to prepare a question sheet, adapting for class discussion the questions in the June 2001 or the February 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

[5] **With Family and Friends:** Parents, think how much your children have grown since the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* was first released. Why not watch it again at your next family study? The April 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* outlines questions for a lively and candid discussion.

[6] Are there friends in the congregation you have wanted to invite to your home? Watching together the video *Respect Jehovah's Authority* would make for an upbuilding evening, especially if afterward you review the lessons learned, using the questions listed in the September 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

[7] **Other Opportunities:** How else can you use our 20 different videos? Would showing one or two of them to someone you visit regularly help him to progress spiritually? Could you offer to show the videos at a local nursing home or a center for senior citizens? Would the videos help to win the respect of your non-Witness relatives, neighbors, and workmates? Our videos are impressive, instructive, and effective visual aids. Use them to teach.

1. How did Jehovah use visual aids to teach his ancient servants, and with what effect?
2. What visual aids can we use to teach others Bible truths?
3. What can you use to direct a Bible student to the organization?
4. What teaching tools might a Witness youth use at school?
5. What is available for parents to use on family studies?
6. How could you arrange for an upbuilding time with friends?
7. What possible opportunities can you think of for using our videos?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Feb. 15

"If you could pick someone to rule the world, whom would you choose? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* considers the credentials of the Messiah, the one whom God has chosen to rule the earth. It also explains what his rule will mean for mankind." Read Isaiah 9:6, 7.

Awake!® Feb.

"There are many gods that people worship today. However, notice what Jesus said in prayer about his heavenly Father. [Read John 17:3.] If there is only one true God, what about all the other gods? [Allow for response.] This article gives the Bible's viewpoint." Feature the article on pages 28-9.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Mar. 1

"Most people agree that we should love one another, as Jesus commanded in this scripture. [Read John 13:34, 35.] Where, though, can we find people who are applying Jesus' teachings in their lives? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers how we can identify genuine Christians today."

Awake!® Mar.

"Love is vital for our happiness and well-being. Yet, for many people, true love is hard to find. Why do you think that is? [Allow for response.] One key to *finding* true love is to learn to *show* unselfish love for others. This magazine discusses what that involves." Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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Help Others to Benefit From the Ransom

Memorial of Christ's Death to Be Observed on April 12

[1] "Thanks be to God for his indescribable free gift." (2 Cor. 9:15) Those words well express how we feel about the goodness and loving-kindness that God extends to his people through his Son, Jesus Christ. Such appreciation will be especially evident as we gather together on April 12 to observe the Memorial of Christ's death.

[2] Along with Jehovah's servants, some ten million others attend the Memorial observance each year. In so doing, they demonstrate a measure of appreciation for Christ's sacrifice. However, to benefit from the ransom, they need to exercise faith in it. (John 3: 16, 36) How can we help them to develop such faith? During this Memorial season, we can encourage them to have a personal Bible study and to attend the weekly congregation meetings. Consider the following suggestions.

[3] **Bible Studies:** When you invite interested ones to the Memorial, why not try to start a Bible study with them in the *Bible Teach* book? Offer to explain the Memorial observance to the person by opening to pages 206-8 and considering the topic "The Lord's Evening Meal—An Observance That Honors God." You may be able to consider that information in one or two visits, perhaps as a Bible study at the doorstep. When you have completed that material, the person may be willing to discuss chapter 5, "The Ransom —God's Greatest Gift." Once a regular Bible study has been established, go back and consider the opening four chapters of the book.

[4] With whom can we start a Bible study using this approach? Perhaps some of your workmates, schoolmates, or neighbors would agree to such discussions. Brothers might approach the unbelieving husbands of sisters in the congregation. And do not overlook your own non-Witness relatives. In addition, we will want to make a special effort to extend a Memorial invitation to those who were once actively associated with the congregation. (Luke 15:3-7) May we seek to help all such ones to benefit from the ransom.

[5] **Congregation Meetings:** The Memorial is the first meeting that many Bible students and other interested ones attend. How, though, can we encourage them to benefit from our other congregation meetings? The April 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 8, offered the following suggestions: "Mention the title of the next public talk. Show them the material that will be considered at the *Watchtower* Study and at the Congregation Book Study. Describe the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting. When you have an assignment in the school, perhaps you could rehearse it with them. Share outstanding points that were presented at the meetings. Use photographs in our publications to help them visualize what takes place. From the very first study, invite them to attend."

[6] When honesthearted ones have a regular Bible study and attend congregation meetings regularly, they often make rapid spiritual progress. May we, therefore, encourage others to take advantage of these spiritual provisions and to benefit from God's greatest gift—the ransom.

1. What is one way that God's people express their appreciation for the ransom?
2. Who along with Jehovah's servants attend the Memorial observance, and what do they need to do in order to benefit from the ransom?
3. How might we start a Bible study when extending an invitation to the Memorial?
4. With whom can we start a Bible study during this Memorial season?
5. How can we encourage Bible students and other interested ones to attend the weekly congregation meetings?
6. In what two ways can we help honesthearted ones to benefit from the ransom?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 13

Song 41

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March *Awake!* At the conclusion of each presentation, have the publisher invite the householder to the Memorial, using the back cover of the magazine that is being featured.

15 min: "Help Others to Benefit From the Ransom."* The part that follows this one will further consider how we can use pages 206-8 of the *Bible Teach* book when inviting people to the Memorial.

20 min: The Lord's Evening Meal —An Observance That Honors God. Question-and-answer discussion based on pages 206-8 of the *Bible Teach* book. In an introduction of less than one minute, show how the subject can be introduced to the householder by reading the opening paragraph. Then invite the audience to comment on the following questions without having the paragraphs read: (par. 2) When did Jesus institute the Memorial of his death? (par. 3) How often should the Lord's Evening Meal be observed? (par. 4) How does the Bible describe the Memorial observance? (par. 5) How do we know that Jesus did not turn the bread into his literal flesh and the wine into his blood? (par. 6) What does the unleavened bread symbolize? (par. 7) What does the red wine represent? (par. 8) Who only should partake of the bread and the wine? (par. 9) When is the Memorial held each year, and why should we attend? Highlight key scriptures as time permits. Encourage all to consider this information with Bible students and others whom they invite to the Memorial by reading the paragraphs, discussing the main points, and using simple questions, such as those provided in this part.

Song 134 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 20

Song 18

10 min: Local announcements. Review main points from the box "Memorial Reminders."

23 min: Christ's Role in God's Arrangement. A talk based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pages 10-13. When discussing the first two paragraphs under the subheading "What Christ's Role Is," use three or four minutes to suggest and demonstrate ways to use the Memorial invitation. Review suggestions in the February 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3, paragraph 3.

12 min: Fortified by Examining the Scriptures Daily. Talk and demonstration based on the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2006.* Arrange a demonstration of a family considering today's text and comments.

Song 103 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 27

Song 44

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for March. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* Also show how to use the printed invitation to invite interested ones to the Memorial.

10 min: Is God Still in Control? Talk and demonstration based on the back cover of the April 1, 2006, *Watchtower.* Take advantage of every opportunity to invite people to the special public talk. Be sure to invite every Bible student as well as members of his family who may not be sitting in on the Bible study. All known interested persons and others whom we meet in field service should be given this special invitation. Demonstrate how to use the April 1 *Watchtower* when extending an invitation to one who has become inactive or has stopped attending meetings.

20 min: Local experiences. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed in offering the *Bible Teach* book during March. Highlight Bible studies that were started. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.

Song 170 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 3

Song 199

15 min: Local announcements. Briefly review the article "Enjoy Our Study of *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*" which appears on page 6 of the February 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Draw attention to the study schedule for the *Bible Teach* book. Also show how to use the printed invitation to invite interested ones to the Memorial.

10 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Teach Meek Ones to Walk in God's Way."* Include comments based on the July 1, 2004, *Watchtower,* page 16, paragraph 9.

Song 93 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**206**	**103.6**	**81.9**	**47.3**	**4.9**
Pios.	**96,508**	**64.7**	**41.8**	**20.2**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**25,293**	**49.6**	**35.2**	**13.0**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**867,536**	**9.3**	**8.2**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**989,543**			Baptized:	**2,683**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book.

■ Since April has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The Memorial will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006. If your congregation normally has meetings on Wednesday, these are to be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If this is not possible and your Service Meeting is affected, the parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.

■ Congregations should release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. This will allow publishers to become familiar with the contents before offering the magazines in field service. *Our Kingdom Ministry* also should be released as soon as it arrives. It may be distributed through the Congregation Book Study arrangement.

■ The video program *Noah—He Walked With God* will be considered at a Service Meeting in May. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ Publishers displaced from their homes by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita should call the Houston, Texas, Relief Committee at (713) 334-1914 if they have not already done so. Elders should follow through with those who have relocated to their area to make sure they have called as instructed above.

■ It is important that groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. You may also use the following fax number: (845) 306-0200. At least two weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.

■ For those who wish to make donations to the worldwide work electronically, a set of instructions is available to explain this arrangement. For further information, call (718) 560-5000 or write to Watchtower, Attn: Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook.*

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Wednesday, April 12. The elders should give attention to the following matters.

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready. —See the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* pp. 14-15.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

Teach Meek Ones to Walk in God's Way

[1] First-century disciples of Christ were spoken of as belonging to "The Way." (Acts 9:2) True Christianity involves a person's entire way of life. (Prov. 3:5, 6) When conducting Bible studies, therefore, we need to do more than impart accurate knowledge of Bible doctrine. We must also help Bible students to walk in Jehovah's way.—Ps. 25:8, 9.

[2] **Love for Jehovah and for Jesus:** What a challenge it is for imperfect people to bring their thinking, attitudes, speech, and conduct into harmony with God's will! (Rom. 7:21-23; Eph. 4:22-24) However, love for God and his Son motivates meek ones to undertake this challenge. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3) How can we help our Bible students to cultivate this love?

[3] Help your student to get to know the kind of person Jehovah is. One brother explained, "People cannot love a person they don't know, so from the very beginning of the study, I teach them God's name from the Bible, and I look for opportunities to emphasize Jehovah's qualities." Highlighting Jesus' example is an excellent way to do this. (John 1:14; 14:9) In addition, make use of the review box at the conclusion of each chapter of the *Bible Teach* book to help the student reflect on the marvelous qualities of God and his Son.

1. What is involved in making disciples?
2. What can motivate a Bible student to observe God's commands?
3. How can we help students to cultivate love for Jehovah and for Jesus?

[4] **Teach by Example:** As teachers and guides, we show others by our actions what it means to walk in God's way. (1 Cor. 11:1) For example, most Bible students are not accustomed to approaching strangers in order to share their beliefs. Therefore, it may require patience and skill to help them to develop the love, faith, and courage needed to participate in the work of preaching and making disciples. (2 Cor. 4:13; 1 Thess. 2:2) Our desire to guide our students will move us to be at their side when they take their first steps in the Christian ministry.

[5] Your example can instruct students in other important aspects of Christian living. When you visit the sick or warmly greet others at congregation meetings, they see love in action. (John 15:12) When you share in cleaning the Kingdom Hall or do helpful things for others, you are teaching them how to serve. (John 13:12-15) When they observe that you maintain a simple lifestyle, they see what it means to 'keep on seeking first the kingdom.'—Matt. 6:33.

[6] The work of teaching others from God's Word and of making disciples involves much effort. But what a joy it is to see meek ones "go on walking in the truth"!—3 John 4.

4. (a) Why do many students find preaching to be a challenge? (b) How can we help our students to take their first steps in the Christian ministry?
5. How does a good example help students to observe what is involved in following God's commands?
6. What results from helping meek ones to serve Jehovah?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® Mar. 15

"Most of us have had the sad experience of losing a loved one in death. Are you familiar with this comforting promise? [Read Acts 24:15. Then allow for response.] Many wonder, though, Who will be resurrected? When will it happen? Where will it take place? This magazine gives the Bible's answers to those questions."

Awake!® Mar.

"Many people believe that Jesus is God. Interestingly, Jesus' disciple Peter identified him as God's Son. [Read Matthew 16:16.] Do you think it is possible for Jesus to be both God and Son of God? [Allow for response.] The article here on pages 12-13 examines this question, giving the Bible's viewpoint."

THE WATCHTOWER® Apr. 1

"This well-known saying highlights the importance of taking in knowledge of God. [Read Matthew 4:4.] Many people, though, find it challenging to understand God's Word. Have you found that to be so? [Allow for response.] This magazine offers practical suggestions that can help you to understand the Bible."

Awake!® Apr.

"Many people strive to achieve happiness, but few seem to find it. Do you think that any of the things listed here would help people to have happier lives? [Show box on page 9. Then read one of the cited scriptures.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses the Bible-based recipe for true happiness."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/06 Vol. 49, No. 4

How to Maintain Zeal

[1] The ardor with which Apollos carried out his ministry may remind us of fellow Christians today who are especially zealous in the preaching work. (Acts 18:24-28) All of us, though, are admonished: "Do not loiter at your business. Be aglow with the spirit." (Rom. 12:11) What can help us to acquire and maintain zeal for the Christian ministry?

[2] **Fueled by Knowledge:** After Jesus appeared to two of his disciples and "interpreted to them things pertaining to himself in all the Scriptures," they remarked: "Were not our hearts burning as he was speaking to us on the road?" (Luke 24:27, 32) Likewise, do not our hearts burn with excitement when we gain an increased understanding of God's Word? Yes, faith is fueled by knowledge. Romans 10:17 explains: "Faith follows the thing heard." When our hearts are filled with confidence in Jehovah's promises, we simply cannot stop speaking about the things we have learned!—Ps. 145:7; Acts 4:20.

[3] We cannot rely solely on the knowledge that we have gained through previous study to keep our love for God strong and our zeal for his service burning brightly. We must continue to broaden our understanding of the truth and deepen our love for Jehovah. Otherwise, our service to him could gradually become perfunctory. (Rev. 2:4) God's Word urges us to *"go on . . . increasing* in the accurate knowledge of God."—Col. 1: 9, 10.

[4] **Our Study Habits:** We do well, therefore, to examine our study habits. For example, we may be able to mark the answers in a *Watchtower* study article and to offer correct comments. But do we look up the cited scriptures and reflect on how the material applies in our life? With the weekly Bible reading, do we make an effort to do additional research if our circumstances permit and to meditate on the lessons contained therein? (Ps. 77:11, 12; Prov. 2:1-5) How beneficial it is to ponder over and be absorbed in God's Word! (1 Tim. 4: 15, 16) Such meaningful study will nourish our hearts and energize us to be "zealous for fine works."—Titus 2:14.

Show Personal Interest —By Good Eye Contact

[1] When witnessing publicly and from house to house, we often establish eye contact with people before we begin to speak. In that brief moment, we may be able to sense from their facial expression how they feel about our presence and even what mood they are in. Likewise, they can discern much about us. One woman said this about the visit of a Witness: "What I remember about her smiling face was the peace. I was intrigued." This opened the way for the woman to listen to the good news.

[2] Establishing eye contact with others is an effective way to lead into a witness when doing street work or witnessing in other public places. One brother watches the eyes of those approaching him. When he makes eye contact, he smiles and then presents the magazines. Using this approach, he enjoys many pleasant conversations and places much literature.

[3] **Discern the Feelings of Others:** Maintaining eye contact will help us to discern the feelings of others. For example, if someone has difficulty understanding us or disagrees with something we have said, it will usually show in his face. If he is busy or is growing impatient, we will sense it by observing his facial expression. We can then adjust or abbreviate our presentation accordingly. Being sensitive to the feelings of others is a fine way to demonstrate our personal interest in them.

[4] **Sincerity and Conviction:** In many cultures, looking a person in the eye is viewed as evidence that one is sincere. Notice how Jesus responded when his disciples asked: "Who really can be saved?" The Bible reports: *"Looking them in the face,* Jesus said to them: 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" (Matt. 19:25, 26) No doubt the conviction in Jesus' eyes added weight to his words. In like manner, maintaining good eye contact will help us to convey the Kingdom message with sincerity and conviction.—2 Cor. 2: 17; 1 Thess. 1:5.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Note: A Service Meeting will be scheduled in *Our Kingdom Ministry* for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat counsel and reminders from this month's insert that apply locally. A month or two following your convention, set aside 15 to 20 minutes on a Service Meeting (perhaps using a local needs portion) for a review of convention highlights. This is not to be a review of the entire convention program. Rather, highlight only the parts that deal directly with field service activity. Invite the audience to comment on how they are applying that information in their ministry.

Week Starting April 10

Song 49

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April *Awake!* In one demonstration, have the publisher also offer the *Bible Teach* book to a householder who shows exceptional interest in the Bible's message.

15 min: "How to Maintain Zeal."* Include comments based on the June 15, 2002, *Watchtower,* page 14, paragraph 13.

20 min: "Can You Adapt Your Schedule?"* Make local application of the material. Mention any arrangements that the congregation has for evening witnessing.
Song 13 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 17

Song 104

15 min: Local announcements. Emphasize local arrangements for the special public talk. Encourage all to continue to use the back page of the April 1 issue of *The Watchtower* to invite Memorial attenders, Bible students, and other interested persons. Briefly relate two or three experiences of using this issue of *The Watchtower* to invite people to attend the special public talk.

12 min: Local needs.

18 min: "Conduct Progressive Doorstep and Telephone Bible Studies."* Include a brief demonstration showing what a publisher could say to make the transition from the doorstep to inside the home.
Song 162 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 24

Song 66

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. During May we will continue to feature *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!* Following the demonstrations, draw attention to other articles in those issues that may appeal to people in the local territory.

30 min: "Keep in Expectation of Jehovah."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Mention the convention to which the congregation is assigned. Invite the audience to comment on how wearing our convention badge card at all times while in the convention city can open the way to give a witness. Encourage audience to take advantage of opportunities to witness informally and to use the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form to report any interest found.
Song 191 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 1

Song 211

5 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April. Discuss the box "Do You Ask for Referrals?" on page 6.

10 min: "Show Personal Interest —By Good Eye Contact."* Include a brief demonstration in which a publisher establishes eye contact with a person in a public setting, initiates a conversation, and then gives a witness.

15 min: Meditate on Jehovah's Activity. (Ps. 77:12) Talk and audience discussion featuring the *2006 Yearbook.* Consider encouraging points in the letter from the Governing Body. (pp. 3-5) Discuss the material under the subheading "Bible Translation." (pp. 10-11) Relate some of the highlights and experiences from the past year. (pp. 6-64) Invite the audience to comment on points they appreciated from their reading of the *2006 Yearbook.* Encourage all to use it to help Bible students develop appreciation for Jehovah's organization.

15 min: "Worldwide Campaign to Advertise the 'Deliverance at Hand!' District Convention."* Be sure to read all the paragraphs.
Song 82 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	191	104.8	92.2	51.0	4.8
Pios.	97,522	63.1	40.0	19.9	1.9
Aux. Pios.	25,146	49.0	33.2	12.4	1.0
Pubs.	886,046	9.2	8.1	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	1,008,905			Baptized:	1,635

We are pleased to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 97,522 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 743 over the previous peak of 96,779 in October of 2005.

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Conduct Progressive Doorstep and Telephone Bible Studies

[1] What a joy it is to start a Bible study! However, finding someone who has an interest in studying the Bible is only the beginning. The purpose of the study is to help the person to become a genuine disciple of Christ. (Matt. 28:19, 20) What can help us to attain that goal?

[2] **Busy People:** People today are increasingly busy. In some places, few people may initially be willing to set aside a full hour to study the Bible. To help such ones, we have been encouraged to start and conduct Bible studies at the doorstep or over the telephone. At first, these studies may be relatively brief and may involve considering just a few Bible texts with the aid of one or two paragraphs in a publication, such as the *Bible Teach* book. How commendable it is that many publishers are now conducting such studies at the doorstep or over the telephone!

[3] Should we be satisfied, though, to continue conducting a doorstep study indefinitely? No. Although we are wise not to overstay our welcome when a study is first started, the May 1990 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8, commented: "Once the study is established and the householder's interest has developed, a longer period of time may be spent on the study." This is vital. To illustrate: A starving child might initially be fed small amounts of food until his appetite is restored, but we would hardly expect him to regain his full strength and grow normally if he were fed such small portions for months on end. Similarly, a Bible student needs a more formal and regular study in order to develop into a mature servant of God.—Heb. 5:13, 14.

[4] **Bible Studies Inside the Home:** It is preferable to conduct a study in a private location—in a home or in some other suitable area. This will be more conducive to learning and will help the student to get the sense of God's Word. (Matt. 13: 23) It will also better enable the teacher to tailor the study material to the needs of the student. Moreover, having a longer study period will allow for a more thorough, faith-strengthening consideration of God's Word.—Rom. 10:17.

[5] How can you make the transition from a doorstep study to a study inside the home? After several brief studies, why not simply offer to study for a longer, specified period of time? Or you might use an indirect approach by asking the person, "Would you have time today to sit down and discuss this together?" or "How much time would you like to spend today discussing this subject?" If your efforts prove unsuccessful, by all means continue to have brief doorstep studies. At an appropriate time, try again to make the transition to inside the home.

[6] As we continue to search for deserving ones, let us not lose sight of our purpose in starting and conducting Bible studies. Our aim is to help honesthearted ones become dedicated and baptized servants of Jehovah. May he bless our efforts as we carry out our ministry with this objective. —2 Tim. 4:5.

1. What is our purpose in conducting Bible studies?
2. What are doorstep and telephone Bible studies, and why are they effective?
3. Why should we endeavor to increase the period of time spent on a study at the door?
4. What are the benefits of holding a Bible study inside the home?
5. How can we make the transition from a doorstep study to a study inside the home?
6. With what objective should we carry out our ministry, and how can the suggestions in this article help us to achieve that objective?

Keep in Expectation of Jehovah

[1] "Jehovah is a God of judgment," wrote Isaiah. "Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him." (Isa. 30:18b) There are many Bible accounts of God's execution of judgment on his enemies and deliverance of his faithful servants. What lessons do such accounts teach worshippers of Jehovah today? What can we do now to prepare for "the great and fear-inspiring day of Jehovah"? (Joel 2:31, 32) Our upcoming "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention will move us to ponder those questions and make self-examination. It will help us to keep in expectation of Jehovah.

[2] Have you made arrangements to benefit from all three days of the convention? For example, have you approached your employer about having time off to attend? Do not leave this to chance. Make it a matter of prayer. Then make your request. (Neh. 2:4, 5) Similarly, we should not put off finalizing arrangements for transportation, lodging, and other necessary matters. Such good planning reflects our deep appreciation for Jehovah's spiritual table. Elders should be alert to help those who need assistance with their convention arrangements, especially the older ones in the congregation.—Gal. 6:10.

[3] **Fine Conduct Honors God:** When we gather in large numbers at conventions, our fine conduct serves as a witness to the community. What does this require of us? When we are at hotels, restaurants, and other places of business in the convention area, those we deal with should be refreshed by our Christian qualities, such as long-suffering, mildness, self-control, and reasonableness. (Gal. 5:22, 23; Phil. 4:5) All of us should manifest the kind of love that "does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked." Even if difficulties or inconveniences arise, we will want to "do all things for God's glory."—1 Cor. 10:31; 13:5.

[4] After one convention, a hotel manager was so impressed with the conduct and appearance of our youth that he expressed his desire "always to have Jehovah's Witnesses as guests in his hotel." What a cause for rejoicing! This is a credit to the training and supervision provided by you parents. It would be unwise for parents to allow their children to stay in a hotel room without supervision. Children should always be properly supervised. (Prov. 29:15) May their good conduct bring praise to Jehovah and make his heart rejoice! —Prov. 27:11.

[5] **Modest Dress and Grooming:** Each of us can contribute to the overall impression given at the convention by avoiding styles of dress and grooming that are faddish, extreme, immodest, or overly casual. This applies when traveling to and from the convention city, while helping to prepare the convention site, and while attending the sessions. As servants of God, our first concern is for Jehovah's name and reputation, not our personal preferences or comfort. Family heads have the responsibility to make sure that their family's appearance reflects modesty and soundness of mind at all times.—1 Tim. 2:9.

[6] It is no less important to maintain a dignified appearance during leisure time at hotels, stores, and restaurants. It is appropriate to wear our convention attire if we eat out after the sessions. Wearing our convention badge card creates opportunities for us to witness informally.—2 Cor. 6:3, 4.

[7] Isaiah foretold: "Jehovah will keep in expectation of showing you favor, and therefore he will rise up to show you mercy." (Isa. 30:18a) Gratitude for Jehovah's mercy and undeserved kindness should move us to honor him by our conduct and appearance as we gather together at our conventions. May the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention glorify our God and help us to keep in expectation of him!

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1. What is the convention theme, and why is it timely?
2. How can we show appreciation for our district convention?
3. What qualities should be in evidence among Jehovah's people in the convention city?
4. How can parents help their children to conduct themselves in a way that brings praise to Jehovah?
5. How can we honor Jehovah by our dress and grooming?
6. Why should we maintain the same dignified appearance during leisure time that we display during convention sessions?
7. How can we contribute to the orderliness and joy of the convention? (See "District Convention Reminders.")

District Convention Reminders

- **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. A few minutes before the start of the session, the chairman will be seated on the platform while introductory Kingdom music is played. All of us should take our seats at that time so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, at 5:05 p.m. on Saturday, and at 4:10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Parking:** At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the parking areas reserved for the disabled. Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible rather than having only one or two persons per car.
- **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.
- **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leaving the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers, glass containers, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facility.
- **Donations:** Considerable expense is involved in arranging a district convention. We can show our appreciation by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower."
- **Accidents and Emergencies:** Emergency-response services have complained that they receive many cell-phone calls over minor matters. If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First Aid so that our qualified personnel on-site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If necessary, 911 will be called.
- **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the vicinity of the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. An announcement regarding this will be made at the beginning of the first session. To make use of this provision, you will need to bring a small FM receiver along with earphones.
- **Recording:** Recorders of any type should not be connected to the facility's sound system or electricity and may only be used in a way that does not disturb others.
- **Picture Taking:** If you take pictures during the sessions, please do not use a flash.
- **Pagers and Cell Phones:** These should be set so as not to cause a distraction.
- **Fragrances:** Most conventions now take place in enclosed areas where we depend on mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be a kindness for us to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions to those who suffer from respiratory or other related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.
- **Follow-Up Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should be used to provide information regarding any who show interest as a result of our informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two follow-up forms to the convention. The forms will also be available at the convention Book Room Department. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room for handling or to your congregation secretary upon your return.—See the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, p. 6.
- **Restaurants:** In many places, it is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip, depending on the service.
- **Hotels:** (1) Please do not reserve more rooms than will actually be needed, and do not have more people stay in your room than is allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it. (4) Do not cook in rooms where cooking is not permitted. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) As Christians, surely we will not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff, especially during very busy check-in and checkout times.

WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO ADVERTISE THE "DELIVERANCE AT HAND!" DISTRICT CONVENTION

Publishers in Each Congregation to Distribute Special Handbill

[1] Starting in the spring of 2006 in the Northern Hemisphere and continuing until the series of district conventions throughout the world is over, a global campaign will be underway to advertise with a special handbill the district conventions that will be held in some 155 lands. This campaign will include the special conventions scheduled to take place in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland during July and the first week of August 2006.

[2] In view of the late hour in this time of the end, the conventions, highlighting God's promised deliverance from this wicked system, should have a strong appeal to rightly disposed people. The message should prompt them to consider what lies ahead. In order to give tens of millions the opportunity to hear a message of comfort and hope, over 98,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide are being urged to share enthusiastically in advertising the convention to which they have been invited.

[3] Congregations will be consigned sufficient handbills to allow for each publisher to have up to 50 handbills. Any surplus can be utilized by the pioneers in the congregation. In each congregation, the campaign will begin three weeks prior to the opening date of the convention to which the congregation has been assigned. This should provide sufficient time to cover most, if not all, of the congregation's territory.

[4] It is recommended that, wherever possible, a handbill be given personally to each householder. However, if some are not at home, a handbill can be left discreetly at the door. A diligent effort should be made to distribute all the handbills during the three-week period.

[5] We feel confident that a tremendous witness will be given as a result of this concerted global effort to advertise the "Deliverance at Hand!" District Convention as outlined herein. We pray that Jehovah's rich blessing will be upon your personal efforts as you share in this worldwide campaign.

Do You Ask for Referrals?

If you are currently conducting a Bible study, why not ask the student if any of his friends, relatives, or acquaintances would also enjoy learning what the Bible teaches? Often several names are given. With the student's permission, you could mention his name when you visit those individuals to offer a Bible study. You might say, "[Name of student] has enjoyed studying the Bible, and he thought that you too might like to benefit from our free Bible study program." Then briefly demonstrate how the study is conducted, using the *Bible Teach* book.

If you have a student who is making good progress, you might encourage him to describe the study arrangement to friends and family members who might be interested. He could invite them to sit in on his study. Or if that is not convenient, he could arrange for you to meet with them to demonstrate the study arrangement. Doing this would encourage the student to begin sharing his Bible knowledge with others.

Those on whom you make regular return visits may also provide you with referrals, even if they themselves have not yet accepted a regular Bible study. When you offer them a copy of the *Bible Teach* book, you could simply ask, "Do you know anyone else who would enjoy having a copy of this publication?"

In view of the urgency of the times, we want to use every possible means to help people hear and accept the good news. Do you ask for referrals?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book. **July:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* When householders already have this publication, use an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ Congregation secretaries should make sure that they have a *Pioneer Appointment Letter* (S-202) for each regular pioneer in the congregation. If they do not, please inform the branch office in writing.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2006 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these unless you have a foreign-language group associated with your congregation. If the congregation needs additional badge cards, these should be requested on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Plastic badge card holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These may be ordered on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Before sending regular pioneer application forms to the branch, make sure they are completely filled out.

■ It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and promptly forward a *Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address* (S-29) form to the branch office. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 24, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 6 through April 24, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When teaching, why should we pause for each change of thought, but what might prevent us from doing that? [*be* p. 98 pars. 2-3]
2. Why is it important to pause when witnessing to others? [*be* p. 99 par. 5–p. 100 par. 4]
3. Why is sense stress important when giving a talk, and how can we acquire good sense stress? [*be* p. 101 pars. 1-5, box]
4. When reading publicly, how can we ensure that the principal ideas of our material are emphasized? [*be* p. 105 pars. 1-6]
5. Why is suitable volume important when teaching, and how can we determine the amount of volume to use? [*be* pp. 107-8]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How is the situation of Christians today similar to that of Esther and Mordecai, and how can we imitate their example? [*si* p. 94 par. 17]
7. When Solomon said that "everything was vanity and a striving after wind," what was he describing? (Eccl. 2:11) [*w*04 10/15 p. 4 pars. 3-4]
8. How can we cultivate love for God? (Mark 12:30) [*w*04 3/1 pp. 19-21]
9. What contrasts can be made between spiritual values and materialism? [*w*04 10/15 pp. 5-7]
10. What can help us to listen at assemblies and conventions without being distracted? [*be* pp. 15-16]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why was Haman's face covered? (Esther 7:8)
12. What kind of spirit creature influenced the thinking of Eliphaz? (Job 4:15, 16) [*w*05 9/15 p. 26 par. 2]
13. Do Job's statements recorded at Job 7:9, 10 and Job 10:21 indicate that he did not believe in a resurrection?
14. What may Job have meant by the expression "I escape with the skin of my teeth"? (Job 19:20)
15. What did Job mean when saying, "I shall not take away my integrity from myself," and what can we learn from this? (Job 27:5)

Can You Adapt Your Schedule?

[1] As true Christians, we have accepted the invitation to be "fishers of men." (Matt. 4:19) Like literal fishermen, we will likely have better results in the work of fishing for men if we schedule time to preach when people can be found. In many lands, the coming months will bring additional daylight hours. In the late afternoon and early evening, more people are at home. Often, they are in a relaxed frame of mind and may be more inclined to receive visitors. Can you adapt your schedule to preach at those times?—1 Cor. 9:23.

[2] **Evening Witnessing:** Planning ahead to preach during the evening hours may enable us to reach more people with the good news. (Prov. 21:5) Youths may be able to preach after school. Others may be able to do so after work. Some book study groups could arrange to preach for an hour before the weekly study.

[3] Preaching from house to house during the late afternoon and early evening hours may result in talking to those who normally are not at home. In many territories, street work and other forms of public witnessing can also be done in the evening. And many find evenings to be the best time to make return visits and start Bible studies.

[4] **Discernment Needed:** Good judgment is needed when engaging in evening witnessing. Usually, it is best to limit witnessing to the early evening hours, rather than calling when householders may be getting ready to retire for the night. (Phil. 4:5) When you knock at the door, stand where you can be seen, and clearly identify yourself. Quickly make known the purpose of your visit. If you call at an inopportune time, such as when a family is eating, offer to call at another time. Always be considerate. —Matt. 7:12.

[5] We also need to be aware of potential dangers. If you are witnessing at dusk or after dark, it is wise to travel in pairs or groups. Stay on well-lit streets where you are not isolated. Witness only in places where you feel safe. Avoid areas that may not be safe after dark.—Prov. 22:3.

[6] Witnessing during the late afternoon and early evening may allow us to work in service with the auxiliary and regular pioneers. (Rom. 1:12) Can you adapt your schedule to share in this feature of service?

1. Why should we adapt our schedule for preaching?
2. What are some ways we can reach more people with the good news?
3. In what ways can you preach during the late afternoon and early evening hours in your territory?
4. Why is it important to show discernment and to be considerate when engaging in evening witnessing?
5. How can we avoid potential dangers while preaching?
6. What added benefit may come from witnessing during the late afternoon and early evening?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — Apr. 15

"Almost everyone agrees that one of the keys to a happy family life is good communication, yet many people find it difficult to communicate well. Why do you suppose that is? [Allow for response.] This magazine offers suggestions on developing communication skills." Read James 1:19.

Awake!® Apr.

"Many people say that the cross helps them to feel closer to God. However, some wonder: Is it proper to venerate the instrument used to put Jesus to death? Did Jesus really die on a cross? The article that begins on page 12 examines these questions from the Bible's viewpoint." Read Acts 5:30.

The Watchtower® Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom — May 1

"Millions of people worldwide suffer from the painful effects of poverty. What do you feel can be done to help them? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Peter 2: 21.] This magazine explains how we can follow Jesus' example in showing concern for the poor."

Awake!® May

"Have you ever wondered why we grow old? [Allow for response.] The Bible's explanation of why we grow old shows how God has made it possible for us to enjoy endless life. [Read Isaiah 25:8.] This issue of *Awake!* examines some of the current ideas about the aging process."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/06 Vol. 49, No. 5

"Follow Me Continually"

[1] Many people center their lives on pleasing themselves, yet often they are unhappy. In contrast, Jesus recommended a course of unselfish giving that brings real happiness. (Acts 20: 35) He said: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself . . . and follow me continually." (Mark 8:34) This involves more than denying oneself certain pleasures from time to time. It means living each day to please, not ourselves, but Jehovah.—Rom. 14:8; 15:3.

[2] Consider the apostle Paul's example. Because of "the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus," Paul left off pursuing personal aspirations and devoted himself to advancing Kingdom interests. (Phil. 3:7, 8) "For my part," he said, "I will most gladly spend and be completely spent" in serving others. (2 Cor. 12:15) Each of us does well to ask: 'How am I using my time, energy, abilities, and resources? Am I focused on furthering my own interests, or am I seeking to please Jehovah?'

[3] **Opportunities to Give:** Each year, God's people devote more than a billion hours to the lifesaving work of Kingdom preaching. Within the congregation, young and old alike care for a variety of assignments that benefit others. There is also much work that is done in connection with assemblies and conventions as well as in the construction and maintenance of buildings used to advance true worship. And think of the loving assistance provided by brothers who serve on Hospital Liaison Committees and Patient Visitation Groups. All such self-sacrificing efforts are a blessing to our Christian brotherhood!—Ps. 110:3.

[4] Opportunities to give of ourselves in various ways can arise when a disaster or an emergency occurs. More often, though, we may simply discern that a fellow Christian needs assistance or encouragement. (Prov. 17:17) When we readily extend ourselves to serve others and advance Kingdom interests, we are following Jesus' example. (Phil. 2:5-8) May we strive to do so continually.

Show Personal Interest —By Being Gracious

[1] "Jehovah is gracious." (Ps. 145:8) Although he is the Universal Sovereign, he is kind, considerate, and courteous in his dealings with imperfect humans. (Gen. 13:14; 19:18-21, 29) We can enhance our presentation of the good news by imitating our gracious God. (Col. 4:6) This involves more than simply being polite and respectful in our speech.

[2] **From Door to Door:** What if we visit the householder at an inopportune time or when he is too busy to speak with us? We do well to acknowledge such circumstances by keeping our presentation very brief or by offering to return at another time. We kindly refrain from insisting that people accept literature if they choose to decline. Consideration for others will also prompt us to show respect for their property, such as by closing gates and doors and by training our children to do the same. We should make sure that any literature left at not-at-homes is out of sight. Indeed, graciousness will move us to treat others just as we would want them to treat us.—Luke 6:31.

[3] **In Street Work:** While engaging in street work, we can show courtesy by not blocking the flow of pedestrians and by not congregating in front of businesses. We will be sensitive to the circumstances of others, seeking to speak with those who may have a few minutes rather than those who are clearly in a hurry. At times, we may need to speak up in order to be heard over street noise. Yet, we should do so with dignity, not calling attention to ourselves.—Matt. 12:19.

[4] **When Telephone Witnessing:** Consideration for others will move us to do telephone witnessing in a place where background noise can be controlled. We show good manners when we readily identify ourselves and explain the reason for our call. Speaking directly into the mouthpiece and maintaining a pleasant tone will help to engage others in an upbuilding Scriptural conversation. (1 Cor. 14:8, 9) By being kind, considerate, and courteous in these various ways, we imitate our gracious God, Jehovah.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting May 8

Song 2

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May *Awake!* In one of the presentations, have the publisher place the May 1 and May 15 issues of *The Watchtower* and the May *Awake!* with a person on his magazine route who has missed receiving the May 1 *Watchtower.* When offering the three magazines, feature only one issue. Publishers may visit magazine-route calls either once or twice a month.

20 min: "Follow Me Continually."* Briefly interview an exemplary publisher who strives to keep his life simple and limits personal pursuits in order to do more to advance Kingdom interests and serve others. Highlight the blessings he receives from doing so.

15 min: Local experiences. Invite audience to comment on the blessings they have received from exerting themselves in the ministry during March and April. Highlight results achieved in starting Bible studies and helping new ones to attend the Memorial. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.

Song 91 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 15

Song 9

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage everyone to watch the video *Noah—He Walked With God* in preparation for the Service Meeting the week of May 29.

10 min: Working Together in Unity Under Christ's Leadership. A talk based on the material under the subheading "What Recognition of His Role Means" on pages 13-15 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

25 min: "Kingdom Hall Construction—An Important Aspect of Sacred Service."* When discussing paragraph 2, show a *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire* (S-82) form and explain how copies may be obtained. Interview some who have shared in the construction or renovation of Kingdom Halls.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 22

Song 86

12 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!* As the setting for the demonstrations, show a family having a practice session.

15 min: "Show Personal Interest —By Being Gracious."* When considering paragraph 4, briefly review the box "What Do You Say to an Answering Machine?" on page 2 of the November 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

18 min: Good Personal Appearance. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 131-3. Consider the five principles listed that bear on our dress and grooming. Mention that we can tactfully use this material to help Bible students understand how to dress appropriately for congregation meetings.

Song 215 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 29

Song 42

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May.

10 min: Feature the *Teacher* book in June. Using the suggestions on pages 3-4 of the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer *Learn From the Great Teacher.* As time permits, invite the audience to comment on the good results obtained from using the publication in the field or with their own family.

25 min: "An Example for All Ages." Following an introduction of less than a minute, get right into an audience discussion of the quiz for the *Noah* video, using all the questions listed in the second paragraph. Then ask families to relate how they have benefited from participating in the suggested "Learning Activities" on the DVD edition. Afterward, discuss the question and the scriptures in the third paragraph.

Song 9 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 5

Song 176

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: How to Be Successful in Making Return Visits. Audience discussion based on the box on page 16 of the November 15, 2003, *Watchtower.* Consider each of the seven suggestions, and invite the audience to comment on how these can be applied locally. Encourage publishers to make return visits with the goal of starting Bible studies with all who accept literature or express interest. Using one of the suggestions found on page 6 of the January 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* demonstrate how to offer a Bible study when making a return visit.

Song 57 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**216**	**103.0**	**78.1**	**45.7**	**4.5**
Pios.	**96,548**	**64.9**	**38.9**	**20.6**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**24,007**	**49.6**	**32.1**	**13.0**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**880,379**	**9.3**	**7.7**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,001,150**			Baptized:	**1,534**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on starting Bible studies using the *Bible Teach* book. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book. **July and August:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* When householders already have this publication, use an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ Since July has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

■ *Before* undertaking a Kingdom Hall construction project—either new construction or renovation—the elders should contact their assigned Regional Building Committee. Regional committees have information that can assist congregations in making wise decisions, including the purchase of land and materials as well as other matters. It is prudent to consider suggestions offered by the regional committee *before* purchasing property and even items such as chairs, wall covering, carpet, and heating and air-conditioning equipment.

■ It is recommended that applications for regular pioneer service be submitted to the branch office *at least 30 days* before the requested start date. The congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure that they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) card.

■ Donations made by check for the worldwide work at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office's financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Treasurer's Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ **DISTRICT CONVENTION CHANGE:** Please note that the three tentative Bronx, NY, "Deliverance at Hand!" District Conventions listed on pages 30-1 of the March 1, 2006, *Watchtower* have been canceled. The conventions that have been arranged in place of those that were canceled are listed below. All congregations affected by this adjustment have been notified of the location and dates of the specific convention they are assigned to attend.

BROOKLYN, NY, Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 973 Flatbush Ave.

English: June 2-4; June 16-18; June 30–July 2; July 14-16; July 21-23; August 4-6; August 18-20.

Spanish: June 9-11; June 23-25; July 7-9; July 28-30; August 11-13; August 25-27.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2932 Kennedy Blvd.

English: June 2-4; June 16-18; June 23-25; August 11-13; August 25-27.

Spanish: June 9-11; August 4-6; August 18-20.

NEWBURGH, NY, Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 23 Unity Pl.

English: June 23-25; July 7-9; July 21-23; July 28-30; August 4-6; August 11-13; August 18-20; August 25-27.

Spanish: June 16-18; July 14-16.

SUNNYSIDE, NY, Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 44-17 Greenpoint Ave.

English: June 2-4; June 9-11; June 23-25; July 7-9; August 11-13; August 25-27.

Spanish: June 16-18; June 30–July 2; August 4-6; August 18-20.

An Example for All Ages

He enjoyed a warm, intimate relationship with God. He devoted his life to the doing of Jehovah's will. He "walked with the true God" and was blessed for doing so. He was Noah, an example worthy of imitation by young and old alike. (Gen. 6:9) The video *Noah—He Walked With God* will help you to picture in your mind what life was like for Noah, why he merited Jehovah's blessing, and how you can imitate his good qualities.

The DVD edition of the *Noah* video includes the following "Video Quiz." Watch the video, and then quiz yourself: **(1)** What did some angels do that was wrong, and who were the Nephilim? (Gen. 6:1, 2, 4) **(2)** Why did people become so bad, and how did God feel about it? (Gen. 6:4-6) **(3)** How was Noah different? (Gen. 6: 22) **(4)** How were the wicked destroyed? (Gen. 6:17) **(5)** How big was the ark? (Gen. 6:15) **(6)** What else did Noah do, and how did people respond? (Matt. 24:38, 39; 2 Pet. 2:5) **(7)** How many of each animal were in the ark? (Gen. 7:2, 3, 8, 9) **(8)** How long did it rain, and how long was the earth completely flooded? (Gen. 7:11, 12; 8:3, 4) **(9)** Why did Noah and his family survive? (Gen. 6: 18, 22; 7:5) **(10)** Where did the ark settle? (Gen. 8:4) **(11)** How did Noah know that it was safe to leave the ark? (Gen. 8: 6-12) **(12)** What did Noah do when he came out? (Gen. 8:20-22) **(13)** What does the rainbow stand for? (Gen. 9:8-16) **(14)** What does it mean to 'walk with God'? (Gen. 6:9, 22; 7:5) **(15)** What is required for us to see Noah in Paradise? (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Pet. 2:21)

What has the Bible account of faithful, obedient Noah taught you about how you too can 'walk with God' and have confidence in Jehovah's ability to deliver his modern-day people?—Gen. 7:1; Prov. 10:16; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:9.

Kingdom Hall Construction —An Important Aspect of Sacred Service

[1] During the past five years, 633 Kingdom Halls have been built, 1,193 remodeled, and 1,785 repaired in the United States branch territory. We sincerely appreciate the hard work of the Regional Building Committees and all who assisted them. While a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished, there is still much to be done in Kingdom Hall construction. How can all of us support this important aspect of our sacred service to Jehovah?—Rev. 7:15.

[2] **Be Willing:** If you are a baptized publisher, we invite you to make yourself available to work with the Regional Building Committee by filling out a *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire*. (Ps. 110:3) All who volunteer must be willing workers and have a spirit of cooperation. (Ps. 133:1) Even if you do not have construction skills, you can still contribute much to the success of a building project. You may also receive training that will allow you to be used more extensively in the future.

[3] If you are unable to volunteer, you can show your support by encouraging others who are able to participate in the arrangement. You can help to cover the assignments in the congregation of those who are away. By planning ahead, elders can make sure that the congregation is well cared for when some are working on a Kingdom Hall project. Undoubtedly, Jehovah is pleased when we work together unitedly for the advancement of Kingdom interests.—Heb. 13:16.

[4] **Be Positive:** Building places of worship involves much time and hard work. Understandably, then, those invited to assist on building projects will be away from their home congregations at times. May we be quick to offer commendation and encouragement to construction volunteers, who make sacrifices to care for this "necessary business."—Acts 6:3; Rom. 14:19.

[5] **Be Balanced:** Preaching about God's Kingdom is our primary theocratic activity. (Mark 13:10) With this in mind, Regional Building Committees endeavor to schedule projects so that volunteers are not required to be away from their congregations unnecessarily. Likewise, construction volunteers strive to be balanced in caring for their many responsibilities. They take the initiative to make sure that their congregation assignments are cared for when they are away.

[6] The apostle Paul described the members of the congregation as working together in unity "for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16) Our love for Jehovah and for true worship moves us to cooperate together to get the good news preached and to support Kingdom Hall construction.

1. What has been accomplished in Kingdom Hall construction, but what need still exists?
2. How can we directly support the work of Kingdom Hall construction?
3. In what other ways can we show our support for this arrangement?
4. How can we build up those who participate in Kingdom Hall construction projects?
5. How can construction volunteers show balance?
6. What is accomplished when all in the congregation cooperate together to advance true worship?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® May 15

"Do you think you would enjoy living under the conditions described in this inspired verse? [Read 2 Peter 3:13. Then allow for response.] This magazine explains what the new heavens and the new earth are. It also describes how life will be different when God fulfills his purpose for the earth."

Awake!® May

"Some people believe that to succeed in today's world, you have to be aggressive. In contrast, note what Jesus recommended. [Read Matthew 5:5, 9.] Would you agree with that? [Allow for response.] This magazine highlights three benefits of being peaceable." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

THE WATCHTOWER® June 1

"In most cultures, there was a time when the elderly were treated with respect, as can be seen in this ancient law. [Read Leviticus 19:32.] Do you think that such respect is still common today? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers how God cares for the elderly and how we can do so also."

Awake!® June

"Terrorism is not new, but today it has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, touching almost everyone's life. Why do you think that is? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* shows from the Bible when terrorism will end and how God will bring about real peace on earth." Read Micah 4:4.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2006 | For United States of America | km-E Us 6/06 | Vol. 49, No. 6

Our Ministry —A Work of Compassion

[1] Jesus observed that the multitudes who listened to his message were "skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd." (Matt. 9:36) With tenderness and love, he taught them Jehovah's ways, brought comfort, and compassionately ministered to their spiritual needs. As we meditate upon his ways, we learn to think and feel as Jesus did, and this quality of compassion becomes evident in our ministry.

[2] Just take a moment to think about how Jesus responded when people who were desperate for help approached him. (Luke 5:12, 13; 8:43-48) He was considerate of those with special circumstances. (Mark 7:31-35) He was aware of the feelings of others and showed concern. He looked beyond outward appearances. (Luke 7:36-40) Indeed, Jesus perfectly reflected the tender compassion of our God.

[3] **"Moved With Pity":** Jesus did not conduct his ministry out of a mere sense of duty. He was "moved with pity" for people. (Mark 6:34) Similarly today, we are not just delivering a message but trying to save precious lives. Seek to understand why people respond the way they do. Why are they anxious or preoccupied? Have they been neglected and blinded by false religious shepherds? Our genuine interest in others may move them to listen to the good news.—2 Cor. 6:4, 6.

[4] Compassion touches hearts. To illustrate: One woman suffered the tragic loss of her three-month-old daughter. When two Witnesses called at her door, she invited them in with the intention of refuting their arguments about why God permits suffering. However, the woman later said: "They listened to me with great compassion, and when they were leaving, I felt so much better that I agreed to another visit." Do you strive to show compassion to everyone you meet in the ministry?

[5] Cultivating compassion will help us to share real comfort with others. Doing so, we glorify "the Father of tender mercies," Jehovah.—2 Cor. 1:3.

Show Personal Interest —By Offering Commendation

[1] Sincere commendation lifts people's spirits, motivates them to action, and brings them joy. Many publishers have found that just a brief word of sincere commendation often helps in gaining a listening ear in the ministry. How can we commend people as we seek to share the good news with them?

[2] **Be Observant:** The glorified Jesus Christ took note of the good deeds of the seven congregations in Asia Minor. (Rev. 2:2, 3, 13, 19; 3:8) Similarly, genuine interest in the people we meet in our ministry will move us to look for opportunities to give commendation. For example, a well-kept yard, a parent demonstrating tender affection toward his children, or a householder's friendly smile and greeting all give us opportunities to offer commendation. Do you readily observe and take advantage of such opportunities?

[3] **Be a Good Listener:** When preaching to others, invite them to express themselves by asking them appropriate questions. Show them honor by paying close attention to what they say. (Rom. 12:10) Likely, you will find something for which you can offer sincere commendation and then be able to build on the common ground you establish.

[4] **Use Discernment:** What should we do if a householder says something that is not in harmony with Bible truth? Rather than take issue with an incorrect statement, acknowledge the householder's words and continue with an expression such as "I can see that you have given this subject a lot of thought." (Col. 4:6) Even if a person is argumentative, we can often commend him for his genuine interest in the subject. Such a mild approach may soften one who seems to be firmly opposed to the good news. —Prov. 25:15.

[5] To be of value, the commendation we offer must be sincere. The use of such upbuilding speech honors Jehovah and may attract others to the Kingdom message.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 12

Song 218

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June *Awake!* In one of the presentations, demonstrate offering the magazines in an informal setting.

20 min: "Our Ministry—A Work of Compassion."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

15 min: Trusting "the Faithful and Discreet Slave." Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 3 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

Song 47 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 19

Song 21

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: A Word at Its Right Time Is O How Good! Talk and audience discussion based on the January 1, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 16-19. In an introductory talk, highlight the four benefits of commending others, discussed under the subheading "Positive Effects." Then invite the audience to comment on the following questions: Who is foremost in deserving praise? Why are fellow worshippers deserving of appropriate commendation? What opportunities do we have to offer commendation in the congregation? Why is it beneficial to commend family members, and how can we do so? How have you been encouraged or strengthened by commendation that you have received?

15 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Offering Commendation."* Include a brief demonstration in which a publisher listens carefully to the householder, offers sincere commendation, and then builds on what the householder said by sharing an appropriate scripture.

Song 96 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 26

Song 63

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!* At the conclusion of each presentation, the publisher raises a thought-provoking question that can be answered on the next visit using the *Bible Teach* book.

15 min: Serving With a Foreign-Language Congregation. Talk based on the March 15, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 17-20. Include comments on the *Organized* book, page 112, paragraph 2. Make local application of the material. One or two brief interviews of those who are seeking to expand their ministry by learning another language may be included.

15 min: Presenting the Good News in July. What subjects are of general interest to people in your territory? Briefly interview one or two publishers who have made effective use of the *Bible Teach* book and perhaps have started a Bible study. Then demonstrate a house-to-house presentation of the offer, using a presentation that has proved effective in your territory.—See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8, par. 5.

Song 208 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 3

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June if they have not already done so.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "How to Reach Your Spiritual Goals."* Invite the youths in the congregation to comment on their spiritual goals and what they are doing to reach them. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 30 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	186	102.9	80.0	46.3	4.6
Pios.	96,787	60.6	35.5	19.3	2.0
Aux. Pios.	20,624	48.5	30.5	12.7	1.2
Pubs.	883,872	8.8	7.1	3.4	0.4
TOTAL	1,001,469			Baptized:	1,109

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book. **July and August:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* When householders already have this publication, use an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. Follow up all placements by making return visits with the objective of starting Bible studies.

■ Since July has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The video program *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* will be considered at a Service Meeting in September. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: September 9, 2006 (Gilead graduation); October 7, 2006 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 10, 2007 (Gilead graduation); and May 11-12, 2007 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 26, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 1 through June 26, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What is modulation, and why is it important? [*be* p. 111, boxes]
2. How might we vary our pace when giving a talk? [*be* p. 112 pars. 3-6, box]
3. How can we develop enthusiasm for the subject of our talk, and why is this important? [*be* p. 115 par. 1–p. 116 par. 2, boxes]
4. When we teach others, why is the quality of warmth essential, and what can help us to express it? [*be* p. 118 par. 2–p. 119 par. 5]
5. Explain the importance of gestures and facial expressions in communication. (Matt. 12:48, 49) [*be* p. 121, boxes]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How does the book of Job exalt Jehovah and magnify his righteous standards for living? [*si* p. 100 pars. 39, 41]
7. What testifies to the authenticity of the Psalms? [*si* p. 102 pars. 10-11]
8. In referring to a shrewd person, is Proverbs 13:16 describing someone who is crafty? Explain. [*w*04 7/15 p. 28 pars. 3-4]
9. How does the holy spirit act as a helper, and what should knowing this encourage us to do? (John 14:25, 26) [*be* p. 19 pars. 2-3]
10. In what general sense does Jesus come, and to what "coming" was Jesus referring to as recorded at Matthew 16:28? [*w*04 3/1 p. 16 box]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What can we learn from Job's response to Jehovah mentioned at Job 42:1-6?
12. What "empty thing" do the nations keep muttering? (Ps. 2:1, 2)
13. What foundations are torn down? (Ps. 11:3)
14. How is a haughty person 'rewarded exceedingly'? (Ps. 31:23)
15. What comfort can be drawn from Psalm 40 that can help us to cope with imperfection of the fallen flesh and the various calamities of this system of things? (Ps. 40:1, 2, 5, 12)

How to Reach Your Spiritual Goals

[1] As a young Christian, no doubt your goals in life are influenced by your love for Jehovah and by Jesus' words to all Christians to 'seek first the kingdom.' (Matt. 6:33) Your goal may be to expand your ministry by serving as a pioneer or to serve where the need for Kingdom proclaimers is greater. Some may have in mind volunteering for international construction work, for serving in a branch, or for working in the missionary field. What fulfilling and commendable goals these are!

[2] An aid to reaching your spiritual goals is to put them in writing. The July 15, 2004, *Watchtower* said: "An abstract idea takes on clarity and form when [you] choose words to express it. [You] may therefore wish to commit [your] goals and the strategy for reaching them to paper." In addition, intermediate goals can help you to measure your progress and maintain your focus as you pursue a long-term goal.

[3] **Short-Term Goals:** If you are not yet baptized, consider what you need to do in order to reach that goal. You may need a better understanding of basic Bible teachings. If so, make it your goal to study thoroughly the *Bible Teach* book, looking up all the cited scriptures. (1 Tim. 4:15) Set a goal also to read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation, as Bethelites and Gilead students are required to do. After that, maintain a regular program of daily Bible reading. (Ps. 1:2, 3) Imagine how that would help you to grow spiritually! Open and close each period of Bible reading and study with heartfelt prayer, and always seek to apply what you learn.—Jas. 1:25.

[4] If you are already baptized, what further goals could you pursue? Do you need to improve your preaching skills? For example, could you make it your aim to become more adept at using God's Word in the field ministry? (2 Tim. 2:15) How might you expand your ministry? Set specific short-term goals that are in accord with your age and circumstances and that will help you to reach your long-term goals.

[5] **A Success Story:** When 19-year-old Tony visited a branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses, a desire was awakened within him to serve at Bethel. However, his lifestyle had been wayward, and he had not even made a dedication to God. Tony decided to harmonize his life with Jehovah's ways and made it his goal to qualify for baptism. After achieving that goal, he reached out for auxiliary pioneering and then regular pioneering, writing on his calendar the dates he wanted to start. Imagine his joy when after pioneering for some time, he was invited to serve at Bethel!

[6] You too can reach your spiritual goals as you seek Kingdom interests first. Keep "your works" before Jehovah in prayer and strive diligently to attain them.—Prov. 16:3; 21:5.

1. What spiritual goals do many young Christians have?
2. What can help you to reach your spiritual goals?
3. Name some short-term goals that can help one to qualify for baptism.
4. What short-term goals might a Christian set who has the long-term goal of Bethel or missionary service?
5. How did setting short-term goals help one brother to reach his goal of serving at Bethel?
6. What can help you to reach your spiritual goals?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 15

"Do you think it is possible to be happy despite the problems we face? [Allow for response.] This magazine directs attention to a source of guidance that can help us to deal successfully with the challenges of life. It also discusses the sustaining power of genuine hope." Read Revelation 21:3, 4.

Awake!® June

"Wouldn't you agree that recent disasters have highlighted the importance of heeding warnings? [Allow for response.] This article discusses the lessons learned by survivors of Hurricane Katrina. It also mentions a warning that all of us today need to heed." Feature the article that begins on page 14.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"In today's trouble-filled world, many people ask: 'Why is life so full of problems? If God exists, why doesn't he do something to eliminate suffering?' Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] This magazine gives the Bible's enlightening answers to those questions." Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

Awake!® July

"Today, more and more marriages are under stress. Do you think couples would benefit from applying this inspired counsel? [Read Ephesians 4:32. Then allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* considers time-tested Bible principles that can help us to build a happy marriage."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/06 Vol. 49, No. 7

Build Appreciation for Jehovah's Matchless Qualities

[1] In our ministry, we do more than teach others basic Bible truths. We help people get to know Jehovah as a person and build appreciation for his matchless qualities. When honesthearted ones learn the truth about God, it has a profound effect on them, moving them to make changes in their lives "in order to walk worthily of Jehovah to the end of fully pleasing him."—Col. 1:9, 10; 3:9, 10.

[2] **Our New Study Aid:** From the outset, the *Bible Teach* book draws attention to Jehovah's qualities. The very first chapter answers the questions: Does God really care about you?, What is God like?, and Is it possible to get close to God? That chapter also highlights Jehovah's holiness (par. 10), his justice and compassion (par. 11), his love (par. 13), his power (par. 16), and his mercy, graciousness, willingness to forgive, patience, and loyalty (par. 19). Paragraph 20 sums up the matter by stating: "The more you learn about Jehovah, the more real he will become to you and the more reason you will have to love him and feel close to him."

[3] How can we use the *Bible Teach* book to help Bible students draw close to Jehovah? After considering a paragraph that highlights one of God's qualities, we might ask the student, "What does this tell you about Jehovah as a person?" or "How does this show God's interest in you personally?" By occasionally using such questions during the study, we teach our students to meditate on what they are learning and help them to grow in appreciation for Jehovah's matchless qualities.

[4] **Use the Review Box:** At the conclusion of each chapter, invite the student to comment in his own words on each point in the box "What the Bible Teaches." Direct attention to the cited scriptures. To draw up what is in the student's heart, you might at times ask, "How do you feel about what the Bible teaches on this point?" By so doing, you not only emphasize the main points of the chapter but also get valuable insight into a student's true belief. This will help the student to begin developing a relationship with Jehovah.

Imitate Our "Happy God," Jehovah

[1] Jehovah truly wants people to be happy. His Word fills us with anticipation for the marvelous blessings he has in store for mankind. (Isa. 65:21-25) It should be evident to others that we find joy in sharing "the glorious good news of the happy God" with them. (1 Tim. 1:11) The way in which we speak about the Kingdom message should reflect our love for the truth and our genuine interest in the people to whom we speak.—Rom. 1:14-16.

[2] Admittedly, at times it can be a challenge to maintain a cheerful attitude. In some territories, we find few people who respond favorably to the Kingdom message. There may be days when we are dealing with difficult circumstances in our own life. To maintain a joyful spirit, we do well to reflect on just how much the people in our territory need to hear and get the sense of the Kingdom good news we are preaching. (Rom. 10:13, 14, 17) Meditating on this will help us to continue joyfully making known Jehovah's merciful provisions for salvation.

[3] **Focus on the Positive:** We also need to give attention to what we say. Although we may begin a discussion by mentioning a problem or a news item that is on people's minds, we should avoid needlessly dwelling on negative things. Our commission is to bring "good news of something better." (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15) This good news is a message based on God's promises of a brighter future. (2 Pet. 3:13) With this in mind, use the Scriptures to "bind up the brokenhearted." (Isa. 61:1, 2) This will help each of us to maintain a cheerful spirit and a positive manner.

[4] People will without fail notice our cheerful attitude as we share in the preaching work. So, then, let us always reflect the disposition of our "happy God," Jehovah, as we share the Kingdom good news with the people in our territory.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 10

Song 4

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "We are already Christians here."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 19.

15 min: How the Congregation Is Organized and Governed. Talk and audience discussion based on chapter 4 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

20 min: "Build Appreciation for Jehovah's Matchless Qualities."* Include a demonstration showing how to use questions to help a Bible student reflect on the points in the review box at the end of chapter 1 of the *Bible Teach* book.

Song 88 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 17

Song 99

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Briefly consider the August 15, 2000, *Watchtower*, page 32. Highlight the benefits of maintaining a regular program of daily Bible reading, even during vacation periods or at other times when we are out of our normal routine.

15 min: Love and Humility—Vital Qualities for the Ministry. A talk based on the August 15, 2002, *Watchtower*, pages 18-20, paragraphs 13-20.

20 min: "Imitate Our 'Happy God,' Jehovah."* Invite the audience to comment on what helps them to maintain a cheerful disposition and a positive attitude when preaching in the local territory.

Song 189 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 24

Song 218

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August *Awake!* After each presentation, restate the opening comments that were used to arouse the householder's interest.

10 min: "They Have Set an Example of Faithfulness." A talk including a few published experiences of special pioneers or interviews of any local special pioneers who may be serving with the congregation.—See the *Watch Tower Publications Index* under "Special Pioneers."

20 min: Be Steadfast, Unmovable. (1 Cor. 15:58) Interview two or three publishers or pioneers who have served faithfully for many years. How did they learn the truth? What was the preaching work like when they began preaching? What challenges have they faced? What blessings have they experienced as a result of remaining steadfast for true worship?

Song 12 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 31

Song 28

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July. Mention the literature offer for August.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Cultivate Good Habits, Reap Rich Blessings."* Invite audience to comment on what efforts they have made to establish and maintain a good spiritual routine and the blessings they have reaped as a result.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 7

Song 209

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review how the sample presentations that appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry* can be tailored to the needs of the local territory. —See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, p. 8.

15 min: Meetings That Incite to Love and Fine Works. A talk based on the March 15, 2002, *Watchtower*, pages 24-5. Include a brief interview highlighting what effort the publisher puts forth to attend meetings regularly and how he or she has benefited from doing so.

20 min: Be Progressive and Adaptable in Our Ministry. Talk and audience discussion based on the December 1, 2005, *Watchtower*, pages 28-30. In a talk based on paragraphs 6-11, highlight how Paul was attentive, flexible, and resourceful in preaching and teaching. Then invite the audience to comment on the questions for paragraphs 12-14, making local application. Include a demonstration showing how publishers might adapt their approach in the ministry, taking into consideration the needs, circumstances, and cultural background of people in the local territory.

Song 83 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	212	104.9	79.3	47.4	4.5
Pios.	96,636	67.0	39.5	21.2	2.0
Aux. Pios.	55,222	49.7	32.4	12.5	1.1
Pubs.	858,798	9.5	7.7	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	1,010,868			Baptized:	1,589

It is upbuilding to see that during five of the last seven months we have surpassed the one million-publisher mark!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* When householders already have this publication, use an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. Follow up all placements by making return visits with the objective of starting Bible studies. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure and seek to cultivate further interest in the Bible.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "What Is Your Standing With God?"

■ Beginning the week of January 8, 2007, we will study *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* at the Congregation Book Study. A large-print edition of the book is being prepared. Congregations should have on hand appropriate supplies of the regular and large-print editions in time for the study.

■ The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close to August 31, 2006, as possible. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the *Literature Inventory* (S-18) form. The total number of magazines on hand should be obtained from the magazine servant(s). The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form. Each coordinating congregation will receive three *Literature Inventory* forms. *Please mail the original to the branch office no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet.

■ On September 1 and 2, 2006, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Wallkill Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire* (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, a new form should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer approved as a volunteer worker, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter. The completed forms in the congregation file should be made available for the circuit overseer's review when he visits the congregation.

■ A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

They Have Set an Example of Faithfulness

[1] The year 1937 witnessed the beginning of a new avenue of full-time service—the special pioneer activity. Capable men and women, experienced in the Christian ministry, willingly accepted assignments to serve wherever the organization directed. Now, decades later, special pioneers continue to set an example of faithfulness worthy of imitation. —Heb. 6:12.

[2] **They Took the Lead:** At the outset, special pioneers spearheaded the preaching work by using the portable phonograph at the householder's doorstep. They also used recordings as the basis for Bible discussions on return visits. This was done in large cities where congregations were already established. Later, special pioneers were sent into areas where there was a greater need for Kingdom proclaimers. They followed up on all interest and conducted Bible studies. As a result of their earnest efforts, hundreds of new congregations were formed. Their tireless evangelizing contributed to the tremendous expansion of the organization that we see today. (Isa. 60:22) Special pioneers continue to play an important role in spreading the good news "in all creation that is under heaven."—Col. 1:23.

[3] **Worthy of Imitation:** Some special pioneers have been serving in the full-time ministry for decades. Over the years, these loyal men and women have had their faith refined under various circumstances. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) They have been willing to sacrifice material comforts in order to serve in places of special need. Some are now advanced in years and face poor health, or they confront other challenging circumstances. (2 Cor. 4:16, 17) Yet, they "keep on thriving during gray-headedness." (Ps. 92:14) They put their trust in Jehovah and experience his blessing.—Ps. 34:8; Prov. 10:22.

[4] Special pioneers certainly deserve our warm commendation. If you are privileged to have special pioneers assigned to your congregation, take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with them and benefit from their experience. Show appreciation for their service as faithful Kingdom proclaimers. Draw strength from their steadfastness. All who imitate their faith can likewise enjoy Jehovah's favor and blessing because "those acting in faithfulness are a pleasure to him."—Prov. 12:22.

Cultivate Good Habits, Reap Rich Blessings

[1] When you first became a Christian, you likely put forth much effort to develop a healthy routine of spiritual activities that included Bible study, Christian meetings, the field ministry, and prayer. As a result of Jehovah's blessing on your efforts, you grew spiritually. Perhaps now a number of years have passed since you were baptized. Are you maintaining the good spiritual habits you developed as you were becoming a Christian?

[2] **Examine Your Routine:** Is it your habit to read a portion of God's Word each day? What rich blessings we reap by doing so! (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2, 3) In ancient Israel, each king was to read in his copy of the Law "all the days of his life." With what benefits? He would develop a humble heart and learn to fear Jehovah so as not to turn aside from His commandments. (Deut. 17:18-20) Likewise today, daily Bible reading helps us to remain blameless and innocent amid this wicked, corrupt world. It also helps us to be fully equipped for the ministry.—Phil. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:17.

[3] Jesus had the custom of going to the synagogue, where the Scriptures were discussed. (Luke 4:16) No doubt this fortified him to face the trials he was to suffer. We too are strengthened by the spiritual instruction imparted at congregation meetings and the wholesome "interchange of encouragement." (Rom. 1:12) Gathering together with our brothers helps us to endure the difficulties of these last days. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Is it still your custom to attend all the meetings?

[4] The inspired record tells us that the apostles shared in declaring the good news "every day in the temple and from house to house." (Acts 5:42) While we may not be able to preach every day, can we make it our habit to participate in some form of the ministry every week? By doing so, we will surely become more proficient in handling God's Word, and we will likely enjoy encouraging experiences in sharing Bible truth with others.

[5] The prophet Daniel was richly blessed for serving Jehovah "with constancy" throughout his life. This included the habit of praying regularly to Jehovah. (Dan. 6:10, 16, 20) Likewise, as we regularly turn to Jehovah in heartfelt prayer, he will bless us with his holy spirit. (Luke 11:9-13) More than that, Jehovah will respond by drawing close to us, allowing us to enjoy an intimate relationship with him. (Ps. 25:14; Jas. 4:8) What a grand reward! May we, therefore, work diligently to maintain good spiritual habits and reap rich blessings from Jehovah.

1. Why is it beneficial to examine your spiritual routine?
2. How do we benefit from daily Bible reading?
3. What blessings do we reap from regularly attending meetings?
4. How does sharing in field service each week benefit us?
5. Why is it vital to pray to Jehovah regularly?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower® July 15

"Do you think that we will ever see a government that solves mankind's problems? [Allow for response.] Jesus taught his disciples to pray for such a government in his words recorded at Matthew 6:9, 10. [Read.] This magazine explains why God's Kingdom is superior to human governments and describes the blessings it will bring to mankind."

Awake!® July

When meeting a young person, you might say: "Many your age are thinking about marriage. Where do you think you can find reliable information on the subject? [Allow for response.] Notice who originated marriage. [Read Matthew 19:6.] This magazine outlines some Bible principles to help us build a happy marriage."

The Watchtower® Aug. 1

"It is all too common today to see people mistreating others. Do you think things would change if more people applied these words of Jesus? [Read Matthew 7:12. Then allow for response.] This magazine shows from the Bible how the basic right to human dignity will be realized."

Awake!® Aug.

"All of us are interested in good health care. Are you aware that many doctors today hesitate to transfuse blood? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains why. It also explains from the Bible why God considers blood valuable." Read Leviticus 17:11.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2006 | For United States of America | km-E Us 8/06 Vol. 49, No. 8

Special Issue of *Awake!* to Be Featured in September

[1] Almost everyone appreciates the sound of songbirds and the sight of a sunset. Many, however, fail to acknowledge that a loving heavenly Father created these things. We will have a unique opportunity to testify in behalf of Jehovah's creatorship by distributing a special issue of *Awake!* (Isa. 40:28; 43:10) The September issue is devoted entirely to the subject "Is There a Creator?"

[2] **In the Territory:** If possible, arrange to share in the house-to-house ministry with the congregation each Saturday. Of course, feel free to offer the special issue at other times during the week. Teachers and others who work in the field of education should be particularly interested in this issue. Therefore, special arrangements may be made to visit such ones who are in your territory.

[3] If interest is shown, leave the person with a question that you will answer on the next visit. For example, you could raise a question about why a loving Creator would allow so much suffering. Then, on the return visit, you could feature chapter 1 or chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book. Or you may choose to raise a question about the Creator's purpose for the earth and then to consider chapter 3 when you return.

[4] **At School:** If you are in school, why not present the special *Awake!* as a gift to your teachers and fellow students? Just putting a copy on your desk may prompt questions about our beliefs. You will likely have opportunities to use information from it when defending your faith in classroom discussions and when preparing reports. To assist you, this issue contains a "Young People Ask" article entitled "How Can I Defend My Belief in Creation?"

[5] Jehovah deserves honor and glory for what he has created. (Rev. 4:11) We can honor our Creator and help others to do so by enthusiastically offering the September issue of *Awake!*

Show Personal Interest —By Preaching Impartially

[1] In a vision, the apostle John saw an angel flying in midheaven declaring everlasting good news to people of "every nation and tribe and tongue and people." (Rev. 14:6) Do we follow the angel's lead by preaching impartially? Without realizing it, we could have views that are biased or prejudiced. Our attitude toward people we meet can affect the way we present the good news to them. Therefore, we need to demonstrate genuine loving concern when preaching to people of a different background.

[2] **Consider Your Territory:** Are there immigrants or refugees living in your territory? They could easily be overlooked. Take the initiative to search out these ones and try to get to know them better. What are their needs and concerns, their likes and dislikes, their fears and prejudices? Endeavor to adapt your presentation of the Kingdom message accordingly. (1 Cor. 9:19-23) Like the apostle Paul, we should feel an obligation to share the good news with everyone in our territory, including those who are from a foreign country, those who have a different culture, those who speak another language, and those who are very wealthy.—Rom. 1:14, ftn.

[3] How, though, can you witness to someone who speaks another language? Make good use of the booklet *Good News for People of All Nations.* You might also carry some tracts or brochures in the languages that are commonly spoken in your territory. (See the July 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 4, pars. 2-3.) In addition, some publishers have put forth the effort to learn a greeting and a simple presentation in other languages. People are often impressed to hear someone trying to speak to them in their own language, even in a very limited way, and this may attract them to the good news.

[4] **Imitate Jehovah:** By reaching out to people of different backgrounds, we imitate our impartial God, Jehovah, "whose will is that *all sorts of men* should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." —1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 14

Song 163

15 min: Local announcements. Discuss "New Special Assembly Day Program." Announce the date of the next special assembly day if available. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm not interested in Jehovah's Witnesses."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 17-18.

15 min: "Special Issue of *Awake!* to Be Featured in September."* When considering paragraph 4, have a brief demonstration showing a teenager offering the September issue of *Awake!* to a teacher.

15 min: School Friendships—How Close Is Too Close? Talk and audience discussion based on pages 17-19 of the April 2006 *Awake!* Invite those in the audience who were raised in Christian households to comment on how their parents prepared them to face challenges and apply Bible principles at school. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 164 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 21

Song 62

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Discuss "New Circuit Assembly Program," and announce the date of the next circuit assembly if known.

15 min: Benefiting From the *Watchtower* Study and the Public Meeting. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* page 59 to the subheading on page 64.

20 min: Plan Now to Auxiliary Pioneer! Talk and audience discussion. Encourage setting a goal to auxiliary pioneer at least one month during the new service year. (1 Cor. 9:26) Some may choose a month of special activity or a month that has a holiday or extra weekends. Ask the audience: "How have you overcome challenges in the past so as to auxiliary pioneer? What blessings result from auxiliary pioneering? If you have the desire but are unsure, why should you make it a matter of prayer? (Acts 4:29; 2 Cor. 4:7; Jas. 1:5) Why is it also good to discuss this with your family and others in the congregation, especially with those who have similar circumstances? (Prov. 15:22) When are *you* planning to auxiliary pioneer?"

Song 216 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 28

Song 17

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August. Using the suggestions on page 4 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the September 1 *Watchtower* or the September *Awake!* while making a return visit on a magazine-route call.

15 min: You Can Be a Source of Encouragement. (Rom. 1:11, 12) Talk and audience discussion. Mention the number of regular pioneers in the congregation. Outline ways we can encourage them, such as by giving commendation, speaking positively of the pioneer ministry, working with them in service, sharing a meal, and assisting with travel expenses. Invite regular pioneers to comment on how they have been encouraged by others. If the congregation has no regular pioneers, discuss how we can encourage those who auxiliary pioneer.

20 min: Can You Start a Bible Study in September? Talk and demonstrations. During September we will make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call, using the *Bible Teach* book. This means that at the time we place the book, we will endeavor to discuss a few paragraphs with the householder. Using subjects that are appropriate for the local territory, have two demonstrations. In each demonstration, show how to make definite arrangements to return and continue the discussion.

Song 37 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 4

Song 90

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Preaching Impartially."* When discussing Romans 1:14, cited at the end of paragraph 2, include brief comments on *Insight,* Volume 1, page 255, the first paragraph under the subject "Barbarian." After discussing paragraph 3, review the three steps outlined on page 2 of the booklet *Good News for People of All Nations,* and demonstrate how to use the booklet with people in the local territory who speak another language.

Song 225 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	213	105.1	83.0	48.7	4.6
Pios.	95,641	66.3	40.6	21.7	2.0
Aux. Pios.	97,261	48.6	34.7	11.9	0.9
Pubs.	815,872	9.9	8.0	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	1,008,987			Baptized:	2,611

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **August:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* When householders already have this publication, use an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. Follow up all placements by making return visits with the objective of starting Bible studies. **October**: The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure and seek to cultivate further interest in the Bible. **November**: *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?*

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2007 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily—2007,* and the *2007 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the monthly "Announcement to All Congregations."

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 28, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 3 through August 28, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How does visual contact aid us in becoming better teachers? (Matt. 19:25, 26; Acts 14:9, 10) [*be* p. 124 par. 3–p. 125 par. 3]
2. Why is naturalness important, and what can help us to manifest it when engaging in the field ministry? [*be* p. 128 pars. 1-5, box]
3. Why should we be concerned with personal cleanliness? [*be* p. 131 pars. 1-3]
4. How should "modesty and soundness of mind" influence our dress and grooming? (1 Tim. 2:9) [*be* p. 131 par. 4–p. 132 par. 1]
5. What Bible principles should we apply to ensure that our personal appearance does not reflect a love of the world? [*be* p. 133 pars. 2-3]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is the greatest benefit that comes from reading? [*be* p. 21 par. 3]
7. What determines whether a person is wise or foolish? (Prov. 14:2) [*w*04 11/15 p. 26 par. 5]
8. Why is 'knowledge an easy thing to the understanding one'? (Prov. 14:6) [*w*04 11/15 p. 28 pars. 4-5]
9. What is study? [*be* p. 27 par. 3]
10. How should meditation on Jehovah's creative works affect us? [*w*04 11/15 p. 8 par. 4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. In ancient times, how did Jehovah 'give the saying' that resulted in a large army of "women telling the good news," and how does this apply today? (Ps. 68:11)
12. What nearly caused Asaph to fall from doing what was right, and how was his thinking readjusted? (Ps. 73:2, 3, 17)
13. Why was the manna that was provided for the Israelites called "the grain of heaven" and "the very bread of powerful ones"? (Ps. 78:24, 25)
14. What is "the secret place of the Most High," and how may we 'dwell' there? (Ps. 91:1, 2)
15. In what way is the death of Jehovah's loyal ones precious in his eyes? (Ps. 116:15)

New Circuit Assembly Program

The world would have us believe that the present system of things will last forever. However, God's Word tells us differently. (1 John 2:15-17) It helps us to appreciate that 'storing up treasures upon the earth' is a vain pursuit. To fortify God's people, the circuit assembly program for the 2007 service year will develop the theme "Store Up . . . Treasures in Heaven."—Matt. 6:19, 20.

Materialistic thinking is included in what is referred to at Ephesians 2:2 as "the authority of the air, the spirit that now operates in the sons of disobedience." Just as the literal air is everywhere, ready to be breathed in, so "the spirit of the world" permeates this system. (1 Cor. 2:12) Since its influence is very potent, it is said to have "authority." The new circuit assembly program will help us to avoid the world's materialistic thinking and to keep sharply in focus our priorities. (Matt. 6: 33) In addition, the program will help us to rely on Jehovah as we carry out our ministry despite the pressures and trials we may face.

Make sure that you are present for both days and that you "pay more than the usual attention." (Heb. 2:1) Take brief notes on points that you can apply personally in your life and in your ministry. By being present from the very beginning to the very end of this spiritually enriching program, you will be encouraged and strengthened to continue 'storing up treasures in heaven'!

New Special Assembly Day Program

Empowered by holy spirit, the early Christians exercised the greatest vigor in giving the good news the widest possible proclamation. (Acts 1:8; Col. 1: 23) The special assembly day program for the 2007 service year, "Be Intensely Occupied With the Word," will help us to imitate their excellent example. —Acts 18:5.

Commenting on God's word, King David said: "The reminder of Jehovah is trustworthy, making the inexperienced one wise." (Ps. 19:7) The carefully prepared program for the 2007 special assembly day will highlight the value of the Scriptures "for setting things straight" and will encourage us to use God's Word to preach and to teach with a sense of urgency. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) The new program will show how we can avoid pitfalls and benefit ourselves by applying Bible principles in daily life. It will also help us to use God's Word to assist youths and new ones to make spiritual progress.

Make sure to be present when the program begins, and pay close attention. Take notes on points that you can apply personally. Show your appreciation for the instruction and reminders received, and reflect on how you intend to put into practice the things learned.

The special assembly day program will increase our appreciation of God's Word, remind us to continue steadfast in preaching the Kingdom good news with zeal, and show us how to help others to do likewise. So be resolved not to miss out on any of the spiritual direction and instruction Jehovah provides in this way!—Isa. 30:20b, 21.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — Aug. 15

"We would like your opinion on something that Jesus said. [Read Matthew 5:5.] When this promise comes true, do you think conditions on earth will be as they are now? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows from the Bible how Jesus will change the earth. It also explains who will inherit the earth."

Awake!® Aug.

"Do you think we will ever see our dead loved ones again? [Allow for response.] Notice Jesus' promise about the dead. [Read John 5:28, 29.] This article explains from the Bible what happens when we die." Feature the article that begins on page 28.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM — Sept. 1

"Many people today have lost interest in religion. Do you think that being religious helps one to be a better person? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible foretold that some people would be looking for in religion during the last days. [Read 2 Timothy 4: 3, 4.] This magazine explains how true worship honors God and benefits us."

Awake!® Sept.

"Many people wonder whether it is scientific to believe in God. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Hebrews 3:4.] This special issue of Awake! examines the evidence that has led some scientists to believe in a Creator."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/06 Vol. 49, No. 9

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

"Let the Will of Jehovah Take Place." (Acts 21:14) This was the title of a symposium presented to the United States Bethel family by Governing Body and Branch Committee members on the evening of Monday, December 26, 2005. It was explained that as a result of the simplification of certain branch operations, some Bethel family members would be invited to serve in the United States field in various assignments where the excellent training they have received at Bethel could be put to good use.

Improved technology has made our shipping and printing facilities more efficient. This has reduced the need for volunteers in the Bethel home. On the other hand, there is a growing need for more "workers [in the] harvest." (Luke 10:2) As one member of the Governing Body observed: "We can buy machines to do our printing for us, but machines cannot preach the good news." Therefore, mature, experienced brothers and sisters who have benefited from Bethel training are being assigned to the field where they will be able to contribute much to the preaching and disciple-making work. A number of congregations in the United States branch territory will benefit from their help.

We are confident that Jehovah will richly bless the adjustments being made to balance the need for faithful workers at Bethel with the needs in the field.

Your brothers,

United States Branch Office

Special Campaign October 16–November 12!

[1] "The End of False Religion Is Near!" That is the title of *Kingdom News* No. 37, which will be distributed around the world beginning next month. During the first half of October, we will offer the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Starting Monday, October 16, through Sunday, November 12, we will engage in an intensive distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 37. On weekends during the campaign, we will offer it along with the current magazines.

[2] **Who Can Share:** All who are actively publishing the good news will want to have a full share. Some will be able to auxiliary pioneer. Do you have children or Bible students who are making spiritual progress? Help them to approach the elders to see if they qualify as unbaptized publishers. Elders should take the initiative to speak with inactive publishers in order to encourage them to participate, perhaps, by working along with experienced publishers.

[3] A supply of *Kingdom News* No. 37 is being sent to all congregations so that publishers and pioneers can obtain at least 50 copies. Interested ones who are not yet publishers may receive five copies to distribute to family members and friends. All should keep track of the number they place and note this on the back of their field service reports at the end of October and November. The secretary will tabulate the total for the congregation and report it to the branch office at the end of each month. Any copies of the *Kingdom News* that are remaining after the campaign concludes may be used in any feature of the ministry.

[4] **What to Say:** Keep your presentation brief, as this will allow for a wider distribution of the message. You could say: "As a public service, I am sharing in an earth-wide distribution of this important message. This is your free copy. Please read it." It may be advantageous not to carry a witnessing case to the doors. Be sure to keep a record of the interest found.

[5] **How to Cover Your Territory:** Rather than distributing the *Kingdom News* in street work, focus on covering as much of your house-to-house and business territory as possible. Keep track of not-at-homes, and try to return at a different time or day of the week. Beginning Monday, November 6, a copy may be left at not-at-homes. However, if the congregation has more territory than can be covered during the allotted time, the elders may determine that the *Kingdom News* should be left at not-at-homes during the entire campaign.

[6] The destruction of "Babylon the Great" is fast approaching. People need to get out of her before she is completely destroyed. (Rev. 14:8; 18:8) Make plans now to have a full share in this worldwide campaign to let all know that the end of false religion is near!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 11

Song 20

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* in preparation for the discussion that will be held at the Service Meeting the week of September 25. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I have my own religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 18-19.

20 min: Benefit From the Service Meeting and the Theocratic Ministry School. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* from the subheading on page 64 to the subheading on page 69.

15 min: Branch Letter. Talk and audience discussion based on the letter appearing on the front page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Include comments on the *Organized* book, page 109, paragraphs 1-3.

Song 126 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 18

Song 213

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Service overseer reviews the past service year, focusing on the good things accomplished in the ministry. Give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two areas that need attention in the coming year. Comment on the activity of the pioneers, commending them for their good work. Relate the good results achieved from efforts to assist inactive ones.

25 min: "Special Campaign October 16–November 12!" Enthusiastic discussion by an elder. After reading the announcement provided in the letter to the body of elders dated June 6, 2006, distribute one copy of *Kingdom News* No. 37 to each person in attendance. Then proceed with a question-and-answer discussion of the article. Outline local arrangements for complete coverage of the territory. Encourage all publishers to share fully in this campaign. Demonstrate a brief presentation.

Song 50 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 25

Song 94

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the October 1 *Watchtower* or the October *Awake!* while engaging in street witnessing.

25 min: "A Video That Deserves Serious Thought."* While discussing paragraph 1, ask the congregation to make some brief personal expressions about the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* Then get right into a discussion of each question presented in paragraphs 2-7. In conclusion, encourage families also to watch together in the near future the video on DVD entitled *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?*

10 min: Local experiences. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed while placing the special issue of *Awake!* or while starting Bible studies on the initial call using the *Bible Teach* book. One or two outstanding experiences may be reenacted.

Song 183 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 2

Song 36

10 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Witnessing From House to House."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

QUESTION BOX

■ Is it appropriate to compile material that will be featured in the Theocratic Ministry School and distribute it to others?

It is permissible to do this for the personal use of family members and a few close friends. However, such material should not be made available for general distribution or be provided in exchange for money, as this would be a violation of copyright laws.—Rom. 13:1.

For certain assignments in the Theocratic Ministry School, only a theme is provided; no references are indicated as source material. Would it be beneficial for someone to work up a list of references or to compile source material that could be used by those who receive such assignments? No. Neither would it be proper to compile the answers to the questions in the Theocratic Ministry School Review for use by others, as this would not help them to fix important points in mind. Students should do their own research. This is an important aspect of the training that Jehovah provides by means of the school to help us speak with "the tongue of the taught ones."—Isa. 50:4.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	218	104.2	78.8	44.5	4.5
Pios.	95,017	65.9	40.0	20.6	2.0
Aux. Pios.	36,830	49.7	33.5	12.4	1.1
Pubs.	879,459	9.6	7.8	3.5	0.4
TOTAL	1,011,524		Baptized:	2,478	

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Adjustments for the Book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

Listed below are the key adjustments to the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* which was published in 1988. This list does not include, for example, certain statistical adjustments, which can be found in the latest *Yearbook* and in other publications.

CHAPTER 4

p. 19, ¶4, **delete last citation:** Matthew 25:31-33

CHAPTER 5

p. 24, ¶3, **replace footnote with:** * For a detailed explanation, see the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* pages 88-92, 215-18, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

CHAPTER 6

p. 30, ¶11, lines 8-9, **replace** "2 Peter 3:1-3" **with:** 2 Peter 2:1-3

p. 30, ¶12, **replace sixth sentence with:** Finally, Roman Emperor Constantine gave state approval to the "Christian" religion, and this led to the development of Christendom, where Church and State joined forces in ruling for a thousand years.

p. 32, box, **replace first paragraph with:** Jesus was baptized and anointed as King-Designate at the Jordan River about October 29 C.E. Three and a half years later, in 33 C.E., he came to Jerusalem's temple and threw out those who were making it a cave of robbers. There appears to be a parallel to this in the three-and-a-half-year period from Jesus' enthronement in the heavens in October 1914 until his coming to inspect professed Christians as judgment began with the house of God. (Matthew 21:12, 13; 1 Peter 4:17) Early in 1918 the Kingdom activity of Jehovah's people met with great opposition. It was a time of testing earth wide, and fearful ones were sifted out. In May 1918 Christendom's clergy instigated the imprisonment of officials of the Watch Tower Society, but nine months later these were released. Later, the false charges against them were dropped. From 1919 the organization of God's people, tried and refined, moved zealously forward to proclaim Jehovah's Kingdom by Christ Jesus as the hope for mankind.—Malachi 3:1-3.

CHAPTER 8

p. 40, ¶8, line 6, **replace** "125 errors" **with:** 130 errors

p. 40, ¶10, **replace last sentence with:** In the United States Supreme Court alone, Jehovah's Witnesses have won 50 victories.

CHAPTER 10

p. 50, ¶11, **replace footnote with:** * See, for example, the article "Faithful Christian Women —Precious Worshipers of God" in the November 1, 2003, issue of *The Watchtower.*

CHAPTER 11

p. 56, ¶9, **replace second half of paragraph with:** In this connection, the *Watchtower* magazine has given encouragement by discussing topics such as "Keep Proving What You Yourselves Are" and "Living No Longer for Ourselves."* Having such Scriptural help, let us probe our innermost selves as we try to walk humbly and prayerfully in integrity before Jehovah.—Psalm 26:1-3; 139:23, 24.

p. 56, ¶9, **replace footnote with:** * See *The Watchtower,* July 15, 2005, and March 15, 2005.

CHAPTER 12

p. 61, ¶14, **replace footnote with:** # The *Watchtower* magazine, published by the John class, has continued to highlight the urgency of seizing this opportunity and sharing as fully as possible in the preaching work; for example, see the articles "Let All Declare the Glory of Jehovah" and "Into All the Earth Their Sound Went Out" in the January 1, 2004, issue of *The Watchtower.* In the June 1, 2004, issue, in the article "Blessed Are Those Who Give Glory to God," emphasis was placed on entering an "opened door" into full-time service. There was a peak of 1,093,552 pioneers reporting such service during one month in 2005.

CHAPTER 13

p. 69, ¶11, **replace last sentence with:** Almost 40 years ahead of time, they pointed to 1914 as the year marked in Bible prophecy as the end of the times of the Gentiles, accompanied by startling developments on earth.—Revelation 1:10.

p. 69, ¶12, column 2, line 10, **replace** "El Paso, Texas," **with:** Pampa, Texas,

p. 71, ¶14, line 3, **replace** "in 1988 of more than 20 million" **with:** in 2006 of more than 59 million

p. 73, ¶23, lines 12-13, **delete citation:** Matthew 25:31

CHAPTER 16

p. 90, ¶4, **replace second footnote with:** * For detailed proof that Jesus came into his Kingdom in 1914, see pages 215-18 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

p. 90, ¶6, **replace paragraph with:** Why, though, must the newly crowned King ride forth to war? It is because his kingship is established in the face of bitter opposition from Jehovah's chief adversary, Satan the Devil, and those on earth who—knowingly or unknowingly—serve Satan's

ends. The birth of the Kingdom itself calls for a major war in heaven. Fighting under the name Michael (meaning "Who Is Like God?"), Jesus overcomes Satan and his demons and hurls them down to the earth. (Revelation 12:7-12) Jesus' ride of conquest continues through the opening decades of the Lord's day while sheeplike humans are being gathered. Though the whole world still lies "in the power of the wicked one," Jesus lovingly continues to shepherd his anointed brothers and their companions, helping each to achieve the conquest of faith.—1 John 5:19.

p. 92, ¶9, **replace last sentence with:** Growth has been outstanding in Catholic lands and in countries where persecutions were most bitter —such as Germany, Italy, and Japan, in which the Witnesses are now reporting a total of well over 600,000 active field ministers.—Isaiah 54:17; Jeremiah 1:17-19.

p. 94, ¶18, **replace paragraph with:** Could we call this a triumph for military technology? It is, rather, a testimony that the merciless red horse is at the gallop. And where will that gallop end? Some scientists speak of the possibility of an accidental nuclear war—let alone a planned nuclear conflagration! But happily the conquering Rider of the white horse has other thoughts about this.

p. 97, ¶28, **replace paragraph with:** Of current importance here is "deadly plague." Following in the wake of the ravages of World War I, the Spanish flu reaped over 20 million human lives in just a few months of 1918-19. The only territory on earth to escape this scourge was the small island of St. Helena. In places where the population was decimated, funeral pyres were lit to burn the piles of bodies. And today there is the frightful incidence of heart disease and cancer, much of which is caused by tobacco pollution. In what was described as "the ugly decade" of the 1980's, a way of life that is lawless by Bible standards added the scourge of AIDS to the "deadly plague." In the year 2000, the U.S. surgeon general was reported as calling AIDS "probably the worst health epidemic the world has ever known." He said that 52 million people around the world had contracted HIV/AIDS, and of them 20 million had died. How thankful Jehovah's people are that the wise counsel of his Word keeps them away from fornication and misuse of blood, through which so many diseases are transmitted today!—Acts 15: 28, 29; compare 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

CHAPTER 17

p. 100, ¶2, line 14, **replace "1 Chronicles 23:4" with:** 1 Chronicles 24:4

CHAPTER 18

p. 106, ¶7, **replace paragraph with:** World War II brought another wave of upheavals. And smaller wars along with international terrorism continue to shake the earth. The fearful threat of terrorists or states using weapons of mass destruction has many people wondering.

p. 106, **replace question numbered 7-9 (b) with:** The upheavals in human society during Jesus' presence would eventually include what situation among mankind?

p. 107, ¶9, **replace third sentence with:** The dark days that followed were surely a part of the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy about his presence, which would include "anguish of nations, not knowing the way out . . . while men become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth." (Luke 21:7-9, 25-31)*

p. 107, ¶9, **replace footnote with:** * For more than 35 years, from 1895 to 1931, the words of Luke 21:25, 28, 31 were quoted on the cover of the *Watchtower* magazine against the backdrop of a lighthouse illuminating stormy skies over raging seas.

p. 107, ¶11, **replace fourth sentence with:** Satan's world system has been put on notice by this global warning.*

p. 109, ¶17, **delete second sentence following quote of Revelation 6:12b, 13:** It represents the culmination of the catastrophic situation that Jesus had earlier prophesied about at Matthew 24:29.

CHAPTER 20

p. 123, ¶11, **replace fourth sentence with:** At the time of this printing, various forms of MEPS are used in more than 125 locations around the earth, and this has helped to make possible publication of the semimonthly journal, *The Watchtower,* in over 130 languages simultaneously.

p. 128, ¶30, **replace last sentence with:** Only a minority of mankind, including any of the sealed 144,000 who might still be remaining in the flesh and a great crowd of other sheep who will "stand," that is, survive with them.—Jeremiah 35:19; 1 Corinthians 16:13.

CHAPTER 22

p. 143, **replace subheading with:** The Locust Plague Today

p. 146, ¶16, **replace sentences following quote of Revelation 9:10 with:** What could this mean? As they go about their Kingdom work, Jehovah's Witnesses, using the spoken word and printed publications, issue authoritative statements based on God's Word. Their message has a scorpionlike sting because they warn of Jehovah's approaching day of vengeance. (Isaiah 61:2) Before the present generation of spiritual locusts lives out its life span, its divinely ordained work of declaring

Jehovah's judgments will be completed—to the hurt of all stiff-necked blasphemers.

p. 147, ¶17, **replace footnote with:** * This magazine was renamed *Consolation* in 1937 and *Awake!* in 1946.

p. 147, ¶19, **replace lines 7-11 with:** (Matthew 24:3-14; Revelation 12:1-10) Thereafter, it quoted the manifesto published in London in 1917 and signed by eight clergymen, who were described as being "among the world's greatest preachers."

CHAPTER 24

p. 160, ¶21, **line 11, replace "goatlike people" with:** opponents

p. 160, ¶21, **line 16, replace "Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46" with:** Philippians 1:27, 28

p. 160, **replace question numbered 21 (b) with:** Why is the good news bad news for opponents?

CHAPTER 25

p. 162, ¶4, **replace footnote with:** * For a full discussion of this great spiritual temple, see the articles "Jehovah's Great Spiritual Temple" in the July 1, 1996, issue of *The Watchtower* and "The One True Temple at Which to Worship" in the December 1, 1972, issue.

p. 162, ¶5, **replace third sentence with:** In the Hebrew Scripture prophecies, such measuring provided a guarantee that justice would be rendered on the basis of Jehovah's perfect standards.

p. 162, ¶7, **replace second sentence following quote of Revelation 11:2 with:** As we shall see, the reference here is to the literal 42 months extending from December 1914 to June 1918, when all professing Christians were put to a severe test.

p. 164, ¶12, **replace third sentence with:** Additionally, at the beginning of the Lord's day, there was a marked period of three and a half years when the hard experiences of God's people matched the events prophesied here—starting in December 1914 and continuing to June 1918.

p. 165, **replace picture caption with:** The rebuilding work by Zerubbabel and Joshua indicated that in the Lord's day small beginnings would be followed by great increase among Jehovah's Witnesses. Facilities such as the ones shown above, which are in Brooklyn, New York, have had to be greatly expanded in order to help meet their needs

p. 165, ¶15, **line 8, replace "(Matthew 17:1-3; 25:31)" with:** (Matthew 17:1-3)

CHAPTER 26

p. 175, ¶12, **replace footnote with:** * Roman historian Tacitus reports that when Jerusalem was captured in 63 B.C.E. and Cneius Pompeius entered the temple sanctuary, he found it was empty. There was no ark of the covenant within. —Tacitus *History,* 5.9.

CHAPTER 27

p. 185, **box, replace sixth paragraph with:** In Spain homes were invaded and Christians fined and imprisoned for the "crime" of talking about God and holding Christian meetings. This persecution finally ended in 1970, when, as a result of the government's change of policy toward non-Catholic religions, Jehovah's Witnesses were allowed to become legally registered.

p. 185, ¶28, **replace first two sentences with:** This vicious flood of persecution reached a high point during World War II. In Europe some 12,000 Witnesses were incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps and prisons, and about 2,000 died.

CHAPTER 28

p. 187, ¶4, **replace footnote with:** * For further details, please see pages 165-79 of the book *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

p. 190, ¶15, **replace first three sentences with:** For the dominant seventh head of the wild beast, that war was a major disaster. Along with other European nations, Britain lost its young men in traumatic numbers. In one battle alone, the Battle of the River Somme in 1916, there were 420,000 British casualties along with some 194,000 French and 440,000 German—more than 1,000,000 casualties!

p. 192, ¶22, **column 2, replace line 1 with:** Their trials came to a climax in June 1918,

CHAPTER 29

p. 202, ¶14, **replace lines 1-3 with:** The 144,000 are "bought from the earth," "bought from among mankind." They are adopted as sons of God, and after their

CHAPTER 30

p. 206, ¶3, **replace second sentence with:** Well, what resulted after 539 B.C.E. when ancient Babylon fell?

p. 209, ¶10, **replace line 1 with:** By the 1870's anointed Christians began

p. 209, **replace question numbered 10 with:** What took place by the 1870's, and how did Babylon the Great react to this?

p. 212, ¶23, **replace third, fourth, and fifth sentences with:** Immediately, Jesus obeys. First, from 1919 on, he has his angels complete the harvesting of the 144,000. (Matthew 13:39, 43; John 15:1, 5, 16) Next, the harvest ingathering of the great crowd of other sheep takes place. (John 10:16; Revelation 7:9)

CHAPTER 32

p. 231, ¶27, **replace last section of paragraph starting from citation "Matthew 24:42, 44" with:** (Matthew 24:42, 44; Luke 12:37, 40) Echoing this warning, the apostle Paul said: "Jehovah's day is

coming exactly as a thief in the night. Whenever it is that they are saying: 'Peace and security!' then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them." Satan is behind any such false proclamation of "Peace and security!"—1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.

CHAPTER 33

p. 243, ¶21, **replace second to last sentence with:** Significantly, the pope gave very little attention to Jesus Christ or to God's Kingdom in his speech.

p. 245, ¶25, **line 6, replace "(Revelation 14:8; 17:2)" with:** (Revelation 14:8; 17:4)

CHAPTER 34

p. 246, ¶1, **replace second to last sentence with:** But the vision becomes a startling reality in our day.

p. 249, ¶10, **replace fourth sentence with:** According to a report by the International Peace Research Institute, as many as five million people were killed as a result of wars during 1986 alone!

p. 250, ¶12, **footnote, replace "1981" with:** 1993

p. 251, ¶14, **replace paragraph with:** In recent years, politicians have used the phrase "peace and security" to describe various human schemes. Do such efforts by world leaders constitute the beginning of the fulfillment of 1 Thessalonians 5:3? Or was Paul referring only to a specific event of such dramatic proportions that it will claim world attention? Since Bible prophecies are often completely understood only after they are fulfilled or in the course of fulfillment, we will have to wait and see. Meanwhile, Christians know that whatever peace and security the nations may appear to have achieved, basically nothing will have changed. Selfishness, hatred, crime, family breakdown, immorality, sickness, sorrow, and death will still be here. That is why no cry of "peace and security" needs to mislead *you,* if you remain awake to the meaning of world events and heed the prophetic warnings in God's Word.—Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-36.

CHAPTER 36

p. 259, ¶4, **replace last two sentences with:** In 1914, Jesus became a heavenly King, and since that time he has been exercising authority over the earth as Jehovah's associate King and Judge. It is fitting, then, that he should announce the fall of Babylon the Great.

p. 260, ¶9, **replace first four sentences with:** Ancient Babylon's fall in 539 B.C.E. was the start of a long decline that ended in her desolation. Similarly, since the first world war, the influence of Babylonish religion has declined remarkably on a global scale. In Japan, Shinto emperor worship was proscribed following the second world war.

p. 265, ¶22, **delete last citation:**—Compare Matthew 24:15, 16.

p. 266, ¶28, **replace third and fourth sentences with:** She is to receive twice as much as she gave out. There will be no mercy shown because Babylon the Great has shown no mercy to her victims.

CHAPTER 38

p. 277, ¶17, **replace last two sentences with:** If any anointed ones still survive on earth, they will doubtless enter into their heavenly reward soon after Christ completes his conquest and will join their fellow members of the bride class. Then, at God's due time, the marriage of the Lamb can take place!

p. 277, ¶18, **replace first sentence with:** The prophetic account in Psalm 45 describes the order of events.

CHAPTER 39

p. 281, ¶10, **replace last two sentences with:** Further, "all the angels" will attend upon Jesus as he sits on his glorious throne and proceeds to judge the nations and people of earth. (Matthew 25:31, 32) Surely, in the decisive war, when God's judgments are executed to a finality, Jesus will again be accompanied by his angels.

CHAPTER 41

p. 296, ¶5, **replace first three sentences with:** Who are left to be judged after the old earth and the old heaven flee away? Not the anointed remnant of the 144,000, for these have already been judged and sealed. If any of the anointed are still alive on earth after Armageddon, they must shortly thereafter die and receive their heavenly reward by resurrection. (1 Peter 4:17; Revelation 7:2-4)

CHAPTER 43

p. 311, ¶19, **replace sentences after citation "Revelation 11:15; 12:10" with:** During the time of the end, the spirit and the bride have been inviting rightly disposed ones to take life's water free. Water from this river will continue to be available to such ones right up to the end of this system of things and, thereafter, on into the new world, when New Jerusalem 'comes down out of heaven from God.'—Revelation 21:2.

p. 312, ¶26, **replace first two sentences with:** Those trees, well watered by the river, may include the 144,000 members of the Lamb's wife. While on earth these also drink of God's provision for life through Jesus Christ. Interestingly, these spirit-begotten brothers of Jesus are prophetically called "big trees of righteousness." (Isaiah 61:1-3; Revelation 21:6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **September:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies on the initial call. Follow up all placements by making return visits with the objective of starting Bible studies. **October 1-15:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure and seek to cultivate further interest in the Bible. **October 16–November 12:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 37, "The End of False Religion Is Near!" **November 13-30:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible–God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2006 and the *Watchtower Library—2006 Edition* on CD-ROM with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please note that *Watchtower Library—2006 Edition* is a provision for baptized members of the congregation and is made available only through the congregation.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ The September *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, pages 3-6, lists a number of adjustments for each one to make in his personal copy of the *Revelation Climax* book. This should be done in preparation for the Congregation Book Study starting the week of January 8, 2007.

■ If you are admitted to a hospital and want visiting local elders and, in larger cities, elders serving on a Patient Visitation Group to have access to your name, what must you do? When identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you should also explain that you are willing to have a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses visit you. A federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protects your privacy, but with your consent, the law allows for the elders to learn of your admission and provide spiritual encouragement.

■ The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (TO-33) and *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (TO-34) are to be completed each September. Copies of the completed forms should promptly be provided to the body of elders for each congregation meeting in the Kingdom Hall and to the Regional Building Committee. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review both work sheets.

A Video That Deserves Serious Thought

"This video really makes you think!"
"It went straight to my heart!"
"I was overcome with emotion!"

[1] Is that how you felt after you first watched the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* Some years ago, a young brother was going through a difficult time in his life, all because of the friends he had chosen. They caused him to lose interest in the truth, and he lost his relationship with Jehovah. Then the *Real Friends* video was released. He wrote: "As I watched the video over and over again, tears rolled down my face. I thanked Jehovah for the help at the proper time." The video motivated him to turn his life around and to acquire the right kind of friends. He added: "It is obvious that you are up-to-date with what is affecting young ones." Parents and youths, why not watch the video again at your next family study? Pause it after each part, and discuss together openly and honestly the questions in the following paragraphs.

[2] **Introduction:** What is a true friend?—Prov. 18:24.

[3] **Roadblocks to Friendship:** How can you overcome the feeling of being left out? (Phil. 2:4) Why must you be willing to improve your personality, and who can help you to do that? What will open up opportunities to make more friends, and where can they be found?—2 Cor. 6:13.

[4] **Friendship With God:** How can you develop a closer relationship with Jehovah, and why is doing so worth the effort? (Ps. 34:8) Who can best strengthen your friendship with God?

[5] **The Wrong Kind of Friends:** Who are bad associates? (1 Cor. 15:33) How can the wrong friends lead one into spiritual ruin? What does the Bible account about Dinah teach you? —Gen. 34:1, 2, 7, 19.

[6] **A Modern-Day Drama:** How did loneliness affect Tara? How did she justify her association with worldly youths? To what dangers did they expose her? Why did her parents fail to see the danger she was in, but with what attitude did they help her to recover spiritually? How did a pioneer sister prove to be a real friend to Tara? Why must Christians heed Proverbs 13:20 and Jeremiah 17:9? What important lesson did Tara learn?

[7] **Conclusion:** What lessons have you learned from this video? How can you use it to help others?—Ps. 71:17.

Witnessing From House to House

[1] "Those experienced in the various ways of spreading the Truth will agree that the house to house canvass with MILLENNIAL DAWN is, in the present time, by far the most effective way of preaching the Truth." That statement from the July 1, 1893, issue of *Zion's Watch Tower* highlighted the value of the house-to-house ministry. People earth wide have come to view it as a trademark of Jehovah's Witnesses. Is this method still of value, since it is increasingly difficult to find people at home in some lands?

[2] **Scriptural and Important:** House-to-house witnessing has a Scriptural basis. Jesus instructed 70 disciples to go by twos to the houses of the people. (Luke 10:5-7) Shortly after Jesus' death, the Bible says of his disciples: "Every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news." (Acts 5:42) The apostle Paul also zealously taught from house to house.—Acts 20:20.

[3] Witnessing from house to house continues to be an important method of spreading the good news today. It enables us to "search out" deserving ones in a systematic and orderly way. (Matt. 10:11) People are generally more relaxed at home. Speaking with them face-to-face—hearing their voice, seeing their facial expressions, and observing their surroundings—allows us to discern their interests and concerns. It usually gives us the best opportunity to engage in extended conversation.

[4] **Make Personal Adjustments:** The apostle Paul was willing to make personal adjustments "for the sake of the good news." (1 Cor. 9:23) Perhaps we can adjust our schedule to preach when more people are likely to be at home, such as later in the day, on weekends, or on holidays. Keep a record of not-at-homes, and try again on a different day of the week or at a different time of the day.

[5] Even those with health limitations may be able to share in preaching from house to house. Perhaps we can make it a point to take such ones with us to homes that are easily accessible, allowing them to work at a comfortable pace. One sister's shortness of breath allowed her to call at only one house every half hour. Yet, how happy and satisfied she felt after being included in the group!

[6] Many sheeplike ones continue to be found in the door-to-door work. One publisher knocked on a door and was told: "Come in. I know who you are. I have been praying for God to send someone to help me, and then I heard the knock at the door. He heard me and sent you." The results give evidence that Jehovah is blessing this method of preaching. (Matt. 11:19) Be determined to make house-to-house witnessing a regular feature of your ministry.

1. What question arises in connection with the house-to-house ministry, and why?
2. What is the Scriptural basis for witnessing from house to house?
3. What are some advantages of witnessing from house to house?
4. How can we make house-to-house witnessing more productive?
5. How might those with health limitations be included in the house-to-house work?
6. Why should we make house-to-house witnessing a regular feature of our ministry?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Sept. 15

Mention a current news item of local concern. Then ask: "Do you think that this Bible verse accurately describes the times in which we live? [Read 2 Timothy 3:1, and allow for response.] This article examines the evidence that we are living in the last days and shows what we should do."

Awake!® Sept.

"Many feel we were created. Others feel we evolved. Do you have an opinion? [Allow for response.] Notice this suggestion to help us reach the right conclusion. [Read Job 12:7, 8.] This special issue of *Awake!* discusses what we can learn from the wisdom and design evident in nature."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Oct. 1

"Biologists are trying to eliminate disease and lengthen our life span. Do you think that it will eventually be possible to live forever? [Allow for response.] Notice the reason we dream of living longer. [Read Ecclesiastes 3:11.] This magazine explains why God created us with the desire to live forever."

Awake!® Oct.

"Almost everyone enjoys watching television. But do you think that we should be selective in what we watch? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 13:20.] This magazine discusses how television influences us, and it gives suggestions on how to control our viewing."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/06 Vol. 49, No. 10

What Do You Put First?

[1] How would you answer that question? Of course, all of us desire to put Kingdom interests first. (Matt. 6:33) But we might ask ourselves, 'Do the choices I make show that I am?' The Bible encourages us: "Keep proving what you yourselves are." (2 Cor. 13:5) How can we prove to ourselves that we are putting the Kingdom first?

[2] **Our Time:** We could start by examining how we choose to spend our time. (Eph. 5:15, 16) How much time is spent each week socializing, watching television, surfing the Internet, or pursuing a hobby? If we write down how much time we spend on such things and compare that with the amount of time we spend in spiritual activities, we may be surprised. Do we spend long hours at work at the expense of sacred service just so that we can afford luxuries? How often do we sacrifice meetings or the ministry to take weekend trips for recreation?

[3] **Set Priorities:** Most of us do not have enough time to do everything we would like. So to put Kingdom interests first, we need to assess our priorities and then schedule time for "the more important things." (Phil. 1:10) These include studying God's Word, sharing in the ministry, caring for one's family, and attending Christian meetings. (Ps. 1:1, 2; Rom. 10:13, 14; 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb. 10:24, 25) Other activities, such as moderate exercise and wholesome recreation, are beneficial. (Mark 6:31; 1 Tim. 4:8) But these less important things must be kept in their place.

[4] One young brother sought to put Kingdom interests first by entering the full-time ministry rather than pursuing higher education in preparation for a secular career. He learned another language and moved to serve where the need was greater. He said: "I am having the time of my life here. The ministry is so refreshing! I just wish that every young person would do something like this and feel what I feel. There is nothing better than to serve Jehovah with all we have." Yes, putting the Kingdom first brings us blessings, but more important, it pleases our heavenly Father, Jehovah.—Heb. 6:10.

Help Others to Become Friends of God

[1] Today, people out of all nations are being taught Jehovah's ways. (Isa. 2:2, 3) For such ones to "bear fruit with endurance," however, they must come to love Jehovah. (Luke 8:15; Mark 12: 30) Without such love, they will not have the strength to resist unwholesome influences or the courage to do what is right. One way to help others develop a good relationship with Jehovah is to build in them appreciation for his qualities. Encourage them to give thoughtful consideration to the information in the book *Draw Close to Jehovah.*

[2] **Your Example:** Your personal actions can have a powerful effect on the hearts of Bible students. When they see that you treasure your friendship with Jehovah and see how it affects your life, they may be motivated to cultivate such a personal relationship themselves. (Luke 6: 40) Indeed, our example often has a greater influence on others than what we say.

[3] A major means by which parents teach their children to love Jehovah is by their example. (Deut. 6:4-9) One couple desirous of raising their children in the truth asked successful parents for advice. "The common thread with everyone I spoke to was parental example," said the husband. Thus, by their entire way of life, parents can give their children a living example of what it means to be "Jehovah's friend."—Jas. 2:23.

[4] **Heartfelt Prayer:** You can also help others to cultivate friendship with Jehovah by teaching them to pray from the heart. You might direct them to Jesus' model prayer, as well as to the many earnest prayers recorded in the Scriptures. (Matt. 6:9, 10) You can teach your children and Bible students how to pray by your own prayers. When they hear your heartfelt expressions, they sense your feelings toward Jehovah. Encourage them to "persevere in prayer" when they face trials. (Rom. 12:12) As they experience Jehovah's help in times of need, they will come to trust him and love him as a true friend.—Ps. 34:8; Phil. 4:6, 7.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 9

Song 25

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October *Awake!* along with *Kingdom News* No. 37.

15 min: "Help Others to Become Friends of God."* Invite the audience to comment on how the example of others and heartfelt prayer helped them to progress to the point of baptism.

20 min: Prepare to Distribute *Kingdom News* No. 37. Talk and audience discussion. Review arrangements for the campaign, as discussed in the September *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Urge all to have a full share. Encourage those with progressive Bible studies to consider whether their students qualify to share in the campaign as unbaptized publishers. Parents can also consider if their children qualify. Briefly outline the requirements from pages 79-81 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will.*

Song 221 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 16

Song 84

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Benefiting From the Congregation Book Study. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* from the subheading on page 69 to the first subheading on page 72.

15 min: "What Do You Put First?"* Invite selected publishers to comment on how they have adjusted their schedule so as to put Kingdom interests first and on what blessings they have enjoyed as a result.

Song 172 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 23

Song 58

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "Why do you people call so often?"—See *Reasoning* book, p. 20.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Benefit Fully From Meetings for Field Service."* When discussing paragraph 3, include comments on the September 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box, paragraph 4, regarding how matters should be handled on occasions when no qualified brothers are present to conduct the meeting.

Song 143 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 30

Song 207

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports and to include on the back the number of *Kingdom News* No. 37 that they placed.

15 min: How Can I Preach to My Schoolmates? Talk and audience discussion based on the March 22, 2002, issue of *Awake!* pages 10-12. Invite audience to relate good experiences they have had when preaching to schoolmates.

20 min: Experiences Offering *Kingdom News* No. 37. Ask publishers to relate encouraging results they have enjoyed in distributing *Kingdom News* No. 37. Report on how much territory has been worked thus far and what will be needed to complete coverage by November 12. Demonstrate making a return visit using the *Bible Teach* book. Remind publishers to return any copies of the *Kingdom News* that they will not be able to distribute before the end of the campaign so that others may use them.

Song 136 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 6

Song 146

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on pages 3-4 of the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer *Learn From the Great Teacher* during the second half of November. As time permits, invite the audience to comment on good results achieved from using the publication in the field or with their own family.

15 min: Increase the Joy and Dignity of Your Wedding Day. A talk by an elder based on the October 15, 2006, issue of *The Watchtower,* pages 28-31.

20 min: Preaching the Word Brings Refreshment. Talk and audience discussion based on the January 15, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower,* pages 8-9. Invite the audience to comment on how the ministry brings them refreshment. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

Song 8 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	201	102.8	74.7	42.0	4.4
Pios.	94,167	62.9	35.6	19.0	2.0
Aux. Pios.	28,485	49.9	29.6	11.5	1.1
Pubs.	872,786	9.8	7.4	3.4	0.4
TOTAL	995,639			Baptized:	2,864

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October 1-15:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure and seek to cultivate further interest in the Bible. **October 16–November 12:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 37, "The End of False Religion Is Near!" **November 13-30:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?, or You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** The *Knowledge* book or any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have these books may offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure.

■ Since December has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2007" and should be kept for reference throughout 2007.

■ The video program *No Blood —Medicine Meets the Challenge* will be considered at a Service Meeting in January. If needed, the DVD or videocassette should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ The special public talk for the 2007 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 15, 2007. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 15.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 30, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 4 through October 30, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why is poise important when speaking, and how can we reduce our anxiety? [*be* p. 135 par. 5–p. 137 par. 2, boxes]
2. When asked about our beliefs, why should we endeavor to use the Bible when replying? [*be* p. 143 pars. 1-3]
3. How can we become more proficient in using the Bible? [*be* p. 144, box]
4. Why is generous use of the Bible important when we teach in the ministry, and how can we encourage its use at congregation meetings? [*be* pp. 145-6, boxes]
5. What is our twofold objective when introducing a scripture? [*be* p. 147 par. 2]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What living message is contained in Psalms? [*si* p. 104 par. 23]
7. When was Proverbs written and compiled? [*si* p. 107 par. 5]
8. What is a proverb, and why is the Hebrew title of the book fitting? [*si* p. 107 par. 6]
9. At Proverbs 2:1-5, what is implied by the encouragement to keep searching for knowledge, understanding, and discernment "as for silver, and as for hid treasures"? [*be* p. 38 par. 4]
10. How does the book of Proverbs itself make known its beneficial purpose? [*si* p. 109 par. 19]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How did David 'soothe and quiet his soul like a weanling upon his mother,' and how can we imitate him? (Ps. 131:1-3)
12. What comfort can be found in the inspired words of Psalm 139:7-12?
13. What are some examples of Jehovah's greatness mentioned in Psalm 145 for which we can praise him in our prayers and in the public ministry? (Ps. 145:3)
14. In what way is the fear of Jehovah "the beginning of knowledge" and "the start of wisdom"? (Prov. 1:7; 9:10)
15. At Proverbs 7:1, 2, what is included in "my sayings" and "my commandments"?

Benefit Fully From Meetings for Field Service

[1] Effective meetings for field service provide real encouragement and practical instruction before we go in the ministry. They enable us to share in group witnessing so that we can work along with others for mutual support and training. (Prov. 27:17; Eccl. 4:9, 10) What can we do to benefit fully from these meetings?

[2] **The Conductor:** Specific information to be considered at these meetings is not normally outlined in advance. Therefore, good preparation is needed if you will be conducting. Do not automatically plan to consider the daily text, though you may choose to include it in the discussion if it directly relates to the ministry. Think about what will provide practical help for those witnessing that day. For example, you may want to discuss or demonstrate a presentation. You might choose to review something from the *Reasoning* book, the *Ministry School* book, or a recent Service Meeting part. At other times, you might consider how to deal with a challenge that may arise in your territory, or you might discuss how to cultivate interest and start Bible studies, especially if many will be making return visits. Regardless of what is considered, be enthusiastic and positive.

[3] Start the meeting on time, even if you know that some will be late. Use good judgment in organizing the groups, and provide territory to those who need it. The length of the meeting should be no more than 10 to 15 minutes and shorter if it follows a congregation meeting. Before you end the meeting, all should know with whom and where they are going to work. The meeting should be concluded with prayer.

[4] **You Can Help:** As with congregation meetings, we show respect for Jehovah and consideration for others by arriving on time. Participate in the discussion. You may let the conductor assign you to work with someone, or you may choose to make your own arrangements in advance of the meeting. If you prefer to make your own arrangements, endeavor to "widen out" by working with a variety of publishers, rather than working with close friends each time. (2 Cor. 6:11-13) Once the meeting has concluded, avoid changing the arrangements, and depart promptly for the territory.

[5] The purpose of meetings for field service is the same as that of congregation meetings. They are arranged so that we can "consider one another to incite to love and fine works." (Heb. 10:24, 25) If we strive to benefit from these meetings, we will be helped to carry out our ministry—a 'fine work' indeed!

1. How can meetings for field service help us?
2. What are some things the conductor might consider?
3. How long should the meeting last, and what should be accomplished during that time?
4. What will help all to benefit fully from meetings for field service?
5. What is the purpose of meetings for field service?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Oct. 15

"Since God is in heaven, some conclude that it is impossible to get to know him. Have you ever felt that way? [Allow for response. Then read John 17:3.] This magazine explains how we can take in knowledge of God."

Awake!® Oct.

"Most of us have lost loved ones in death. Do you think there are things that we can do to help them even after they die? [Allow for response.] This article gives the Bible's answer to that question. It also considers this comforting promise." Read John 5:28, 29. Then feature the article that begins on page 10.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 1

"There are many conflicting opinions on child rearing today. Do you think that it is possible for parents to obtain reliable advice? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 32:8.] This magazine presents practical instruction from the Bible on child rearing."

Awake!® Nov.

"Have you ever wondered why there is so much suffering if there is a loving, just, and powerful God? [Allow for response.] Notice what this scripture says about the cause of suffering. [Read 1 John 5:19.] This magazine explains from the Bible what God is doing to eliminate suffering."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2006 For United States of America km-E Us 11/06 Vol. 49, No. 11

Bold yet Peaceable

[1] Many people to whom we preach express sincere beliefs that are contrary to Bible truth. While we must preach with boldness, we also wish to "be peaceable with all men" and to avoid giving needless offense. (Rom. 12:18; Acts 4:29) How can we be bold and yet peaceable as we present the Kingdom message?

[2] **Find Areas of Agreement:** A peaceable person avoids arguments. Needlessly challenging a householder's strongly held beliefs will not put him in a receptive frame of mind. If he makes a wrong statement, perhaps we can tactfully introduce a point on which there might be agreement. By emphasizing what we hold in common, we may be able to disarm any negative feelings and appeal to his heart.

[3] If we let a householder's incorrect viewpoint pass, are we compromising or watering down the truth? No. Our assignment as Christian ministers is, not to refute every misconception we encounter, but to preach the good news of God's Kingdom. (Matt. 24:14) Rather than overreacting when an incorrect viewpoint is expressed, we can view it as an opportunity to gain insight into the person's thinking.—Prov. 16:23.

[4] **Preserve Dignity:** There are times when we must be bold and courageous when refuting wrong teachings. As peaceable persons, however, we refrain from ridicule as well as the use of derogatory terms to describe those who believe and teach error. An air of superiority alienates, but a humble and kindly approach opens the minds of lovers of truth. Showing respect for our listeners and their beliefs preserves their dignity, thus making it easier for them to accept our message.

[5] The apostle Paul considered the beliefs of those he preached to and sought to present the good news in a way that would appeal to their hearts. (Acts 17:22-31) He willingly became "all things to people of all sorts," that he "might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:22) We can do the same by being peaceable as we boldly preach the good news.

Revelation —Its Grand Climax At Hand!

[1] "Happy is he who reads aloud and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and who observe the things written in it; for the appointed time is near." (Rev. 1:3) Those words highlight the value of the book of Revelation, especially since we are living during the appointed time for many of its prophecies to be fulfilled. Fittingly, we will begin a study of the book *Revelation —Its Grand Climax At Hand!* at the Congregation Book Study starting the week of January 8, 2007.

[2] Since the last time that we studied the *Revelation Climax* book at the Congregation Book Study, the world scene has changed in many ways. (1 Cor. 7:31) Furthermore, many who have joined the ranks of those preaching the good news of the Kingdom have never benefited from a verse-by-verse consideration of the book of Revelation. The study of the *Revelation Climax* book should help all of us remain awake to what lies ahead.—Rev. 16:15.

[3] Make it your aim to be present each week. Not only will the material help us to keep on the watch but also the messages from Jesus to the seven congregations will help us to avoid situations and circumstances that could adversely affect our spirituality and participation in the ministry.—Rev. 1:11, 19.

[4] **Prepare Well:** Before each book study, read the verses in the book of Revelation that will be analyzed. Note the Scriptural reasoning that provides explanation. Strive for understanding that reaches the heart. (Neh. 8:8, 12) Take time to meditate and to ask yourself: 'What is this telling me about Jehovah and the outworking of his purpose? How can I act in harmony with his purpose and help others?'

[5] Ninety-two years have passed since the start of "the Lord's day" in 1914. (Rev. 1:10) Earth-shattering events foretold in the book of Revelation lie just ahead. The study of the *Revelation Climax* book will refresh our heart and mind and strengthen our faith that "the war of the great day of God the Almighty" and the new world are near.—Rev. 16:14; 21:4, 5.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 13

Song 152

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I am already well acquainted with your work."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 20.

20 min: Ministers of the Good News. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* page 77 to the subheading on page 83.

15 min: "Bold yet Peaceable."* Include comments on the *Ministry School* book, pages 252-3, under the italicized subheading "When to Yield."

Song 39 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 20

Song 132

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Offering the *Greatest Man* book in December. Audience discussion. Entertain comments from the audience on what they appreciate about the *Greatest Man* book and outstanding experiences they have had from offering it in the past. Review the sample presentations from the insert to the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Demonstrate how to offer the book, using one of the sample presentations or another presentation that would be effective in the local territory.

Song 203 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 27

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!* In one of the presentations, demonstrate how to offer the magazines to a non-Witness relative. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November.

10 min: Unitedly Building to Praise God. Talk by an elder based on the November 1, 2006, *Watchtower,* pages 17-21.

25 min: "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?"* Question-and-answer discussion and demonstration. The elder handling this part should follow closely the outline provided by the branch office.

Song 120 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 4

Song 155

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: *"Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!"** Encourage the congregation to make good use of the special features of the book, such as the boxes and illustrations. At the end of each study, the lesson should be reviewed from the Bible.

20 min: "How to Prepare a Magazine Presentation."* Include a three-minute demonstration of two publishers, perhaps a husband and wife, selecting a suggested presentation appearing on page 8 for the December magazines and deciding how they will use it, putting it in their own words. Then, using the suggestions in the article just considered, they prepare and demonstrate how they would present another article that they have found to be timely in their territory.

Song 168 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	190	98.3	74.0	41.7	4.4
Pios.	93,250	59.9	34.3	17.9	1.9
Aux. Pios.	30,225	49.9	30.2	10.8	1.0
Pubs.	889,005	9.9	7.7	3.4	0.3
TOTAL	1,012,670		Baptized:	5,705	

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SAVE

How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood?

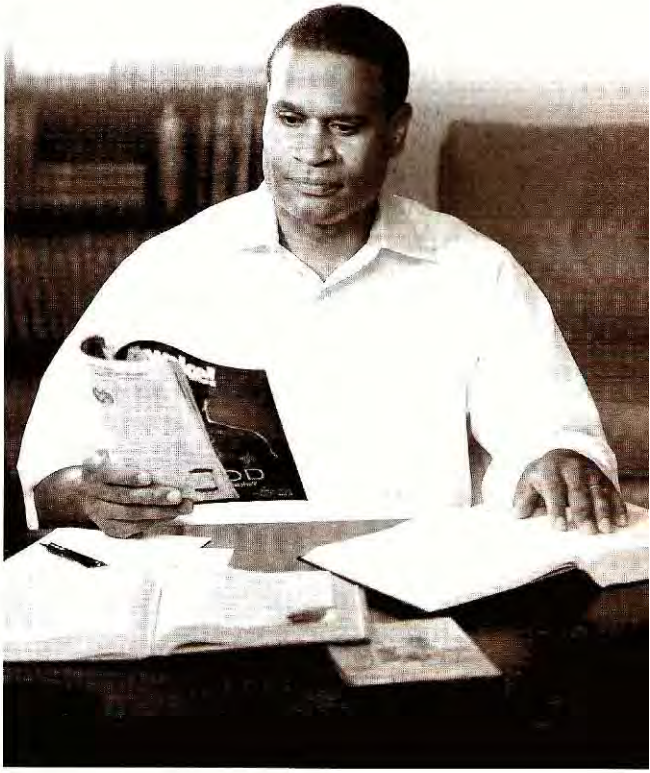
The Bible commands Christians to "abstain from . . . blood." (Acts 15: 20) Thus, Jehovah's Witnesses do not accept transfusions of whole blood or the four primary components of blood —namely, red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma. They also do not donate or store their own blood for transfusion.—Lev. 17:13, 14; Acts 15: 28, 29.

What are blood fractions, and why is their use a matter for each Christian to decide?

Blood fractions are elements from blood that are extracted through a process called fractionation. For example, plasma, one of the four major components of blood, can be divided into the following substances: water, about 91 percent; proteins, such as albumins, globulins, and fibrinogen, about 7 percent; and other substances, such as nutrients, hormones, gases, vitamins, waste products, and electrolytes, about 1.5 percent.

Are fractions also covered by the command to abstain from blood? We cannot say. The Bible does not give specific direction on the subject of fractions.* Of course, many fractions are derived from blood that has been donated for medical purposes. Each Christian should make a conscientious decision as to whether he or she will accept or will reject the medical use of these substances.

When making such decisions, consider the following questions: Am I aware that refusing all blood fractions means that I will not accept some medications, such as certain ones that fight viruses and diseases or that help blood to clot in order to stop bleeding? Could I explain to a physician why I reject or accept the use of certain blood fractions?



* Helpful information on this subject is found in the June 15, 2004, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 29-31.

Why are some procedures involving the medical use of my own blood a personal decision?

Although Christians do not donate or store their own blood for transfusion purposes, some procedures or tests involving an individual's blood are not so clearly in conflict with Bible principles. Therefore, each individual should make a conscientious decision as to whether to accept or to reject some types of medical procedures involving the use of his or her own blood.

When making such decisions, ask yourself the following questions: If some of my blood will be diverted outside my body and the flow might even be interrupted for a time, will my conscience allow me to view this blood as still part of me, thus not requiring that it be 'poured out on the ground'? (Deut. 12:23, 24) Would my Bible-trained conscience be troubled if during a medical procedure some of my own blood was withdrawn, modified, and directed back into my body? Am I aware that refusing *all* medical procedures involving the use of my own blood means that I refuse treatments such as dialysis or the use of a heart-lung machine? Have I prayerfully considered this matter before making a decision?*

What are my personal decisions?

Consider the two work sheets on the following pages. **Work Sheet 1** lists some of the fractions extracted from blood and how they are commonly used in medicine. Fill in your personal choice as to whether you will accept or will reject the use of each of these fractions. **Work Sheet 2** lists some common medical procedures involving your own blood. Fill in your personal choice as to whether you will accept or will reject these procedures. These work sheets are not legal documents, but you may use your answers on these work sheets to help you to complete your DPA (durable power of attorney) card.

Your decisions should be your own and should not be based on someone else's conscience. Likewise, no one should criticize another Christian's decisions. In these matters, "each one will carry his own load" of responsibility.—Gal. 6:4, 5.

* Helpful information on this subject is found in the October 15, 2000, issue of *The Watchtower,* pages 30-1, and the *Transfusion Alternatives—Documentary Series—On DVD.*

WORK SHEET 1

UNACCEPTABLE TO CHRISTIANS

WHOLE BLOOD

	YOUR PERSONAL DECISION	
	FRACTIONS	Choices You Need to Make
PLASMA	**ALBUMIN—UP TO 4% OF PLASMA** A protein extracted from plasma. Types of albumin are found also in plants, in foods such as milk and eggs, and in the milk of a nursing mother. Albumin from blood is sometimes used in volume expanders to treat shock and severe burns. These preparations may contain up to 25 percent albumin. Minute amounts are used in the formulation of many other medicines, including some formulations of erythropoietin (EPO).	___ I accept albumin or ___ I refuse albumin
	IMMUNOGLOBULINS—UP TO 3% OF PLASMA Protein fractions that may be used in some medicines that fight viruses and diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, viral hepatitis, and rabies. They may also be used to guard against some medical conditions that threaten the life of a developing baby and to counteract the effects of snake or spider venom.	___ I accept immunoglobulins or ___ I refuse immunoglobulins
	CLOTTING FACTORS—LESS THAN 1% OF PLASMA There are various proteins that help blood to clot in order to stop bleeding. Some are given to patients who tend to bleed easily. They are also used in medical glues to seal wounds and to stop bleeding after surgery. One combination of clotting factors is known as cryoprecipitate. **Note:** Some clotting factors are now made from nonblood sources.	___ I accept blood-derived clotting factors or ___ I refuse blood-derived clotting factors
RED CELLS	**HEMOGLOBIN—33% OF RED CELLS** A protein that transports oxygen throughout the body and carbon dioxide to the lungs. Products being developed from human or animal hemoglobin could be used to treat patients with acute anemia or massive blood loss.	___ I accept hemoglobin or ___ I refuse hemoglobin
	HEMIN—LESS THAN 2% OF RED CELLS An enzyme inhibitor derived from hemoglobin that is used to treat a group of rare genetic blood disorders (known as porphyria) that affect the digestive, nervous, and circulatory systems.	___ I accept hemin or ___ I refuse hemin
WHITE CELLS	**INTERFERONS—A TINY FRACTION OF WHITE CELLS** Proteins that fight certain viral infections and cancers. Most interferons are not derived from blood. Some are made from fractions of human white blood cells.	___ I accept blood-derived interferons or ___ I refuse blood-derived interferons
PLATELETS	At present, no fractions from platelets are being isolated for direct use in medical treatment.	

WORK SHEET 2

YOUR PERSONAL DECISION

PROCEDURES INVOLVING THE MEDICAL USE OF YOUR OWN BLOOD

***Note:** The methods of applying each of these medical procedures vary from physician to physician. You should have your physician explain exactly what is involved in any proposed procedure to ensure that it is in harmony with Bible principles and with your own conscientious decisions.

NAME OF TREATMENT	WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES	Choices You Need to Make (You might want to speak to your physician before accepting or refusing any of these procedures.)
CELL SALVAGE	**Reduces blood loss.** Blood is recovered during surgery from a wound or body cavity. It is washed or filtered and then, perhaps in a continuous process, returned to the patient.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
HEMODILUTION	**Reduces blood loss.** During surgery, blood is diverted to bags and replaced with a nonblood volume expander. Thus the blood remaining in the patient during surgery is diluted, containing fewer red blood cells. During or at the end of surgery, the diverted blood is returned to the patient.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
HEART-LUNG MACHINE	**Maintains circulation.** Blood is diverted to an artificial heart-lung machine where it is oxygenated and directed back into the patient.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
DIALYSIS	**Functions as an organ.** In hemodialysis, blood circulates through a machine that filters and cleans it before returning it to the patient.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
EPIDURAL BLOOD PATCH	**Stops spinal fluid leakage.** A small amount of the patient's own blood is injected into the membrane surrounding the spinal cord. It is used to seal a puncture site that is leaking spinal fluid.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
PLASMAPHERESIS	**Treats illness.** Blood is withdrawn and filtered to remove plasma. A plasma substitute is added, and the blood is returned to the patient. Some physicians may want to use plasma from another person to replace that from the patient's blood. If so, this option would be unacceptable to a Christian.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
LABELING OR TAGGING	**Diagnoses or treats illness.** Some blood is withdrawn, mixed with medicine, and returned to the patient. The length of time one's blood is outside the body may vary.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse
PLATELET GEL; AUTOLOGOUS (MEANING "MADE FROM YOUR OWN BLOOD")	**Seals wounds, reduces bleeding.** Some blood is withdrawn and concentrated into a solution rich in platelets and white cells. This solution is applied on surgical sites or wounds. **Note:** In some formulations, a clotting factor taken from cow's blood is used.	___ I accept ___ I might accept* ___ I refuse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October 16–November 12:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 37, "The End of False Religion Is Near!" **November 13-30:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?, or You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** The *Knowledge* book or any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have these books may offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure. **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Worship God* book.

Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!

Study schedule for the weeks of January 8, 2007, through July 28, 2008.

WEEK OF	CHAPTER	PARAGRAPHS
Jan. 8	Chap. 1	¶1-9
Jan. 15	Chap. 2	¶1-14
Jan. 22	Chap. 2	¶15-26
Jan. 29	Chap. 3	¶1-11
Feb. 5	Chap. 4	¶1-11
Feb. 12	Chap. 5	¶1-14
Feb. 19	Chap. 6	¶1-16
Feb. 26	Chap. 6	¶17–Chap. 7 ¶7
Mar. 5	Chap. 7	¶8–Chap. 8 ¶6
Mar. 12	Chap. 8	¶7–Chap. 9 ¶7
Mar. 19	Chap. 9	¶8-23
Mar. 26	Chap. 10	¶1-14
Apr. 2	Chap. 10	¶15–Chap. 11 ¶5
Apr. 9	Chap. 11	¶6-15
Apr. 16	Chap. 12	¶1-14
Apr. 23	Chap. 12	¶15-25
Apr. 30	Chap. 13	¶1-12
May 7	Chap. 13	¶13-26
May 14	Chap. 14	¶1-11
May 21	Chap. 14	¶12-22
May 28	Chap. 14	¶23–Chap. 15 ¶8
June 4	Chap. 15	¶9-19
June 11	Chap. 15	¶20–Chap. 16 ¶5
June 18	Chap. 16	¶6-19
June 25	Chap. 16	¶20-32
July 2	Chap. 17	¶1-12
July 9	Chap. 17	¶13–Chap. 18 ¶9
July 16	Chap. 18	¶10-20
July 23	Chap. 18	¶21-30
July 30	Chap. 19	¶1-13
Aug. 6	Chap. 19	¶14–Chap. 20 ¶5
Aug. 13	Chap. 20	¶6-16
Aug. 20	Chap. 20	¶17-29
Aug. 27	Chap. 20	¶30–Chap. 21 ¶9
Sept. 3	Chap. 21	¶10-20
Sept. 10	Chap. 21	¶21-35
Sept. 17	Chap. 21	¶36–Chap. 22 ¶4*
Sept. 24	Chart on p. 139	
Oct. 1	Chap. 22	¶5-17
Oct. 8	Chap. 22	¶18–Chap. 23 ¶9
Oct. 15	Chap. 23	¶10-20
Oct. 22	Chap. 24	¶1-14
Oct. 29	Chap. 24	¶15–Chap. 25 ¶6
Nov. 5	Chap. 25	¶7-18
Nov. 12	Chap. 25	¶19-29
Nov. 19	Chap. 26	¶1-11
Nov. 26	Chap. 26	¶12–Chap. 27 ¶6
Dec. 3	Chap. 27	¶7-20
Dec. 10	Chap. 27	¶21-30
Dec. 17	Chap. 28	¶1-12
Dec. 24	Chap. 28	¶13-24
Dec. 31	Chap. 28	¶25-38
2008		
Jan. 7	Chap. 29	¶1-11
Jan. 14	Chap. 29	¶12–Chap. 30 ¶7
Jan. 21	Chap. 30	¶8-20
Jan. 28	Chap. 30	¶21–Chap. 31 ¶3
Feb. 4	Chap. 31	¶4-16
Feb. 11	Chap. 31	¶17–Chap. 32 ¶5
Feb. 18	Chap. 32	¶6-19
Feb. 25	Chap. 32	¶20-33
Mar. 3	Chap. 32	¶34–Chap. 33 ¶5
Mar. 10	Chap. 33	¶6-21
Mar. 17	Chap. 33	¶22–Chap. 34 ¶9
Mar. 24	Chap. 34	¶10–Chap. 35 ¶7
Mar. 31	Chap. 35	¶8-22
Apr. 7	Chap. 36	¶1-12
Apr. 14	Chap. 36	¶13-21
Apr. 21	Chap. 36	¶22–Chap. 37 ¶6
Apr. 28	Chap. 37	¶7-19
May 5	Chap. 38	¶1-10
May 12	Chap. 38	¶11-24
May 19	Chap. 39	¶1-13
May 26	Chap. 39	¶14-26
June 2	Chap. 40	¶1-13
June 9	Chap. 40	¶14-24
June 16	Chap. 40	¶25–Chap. 41 ¶4
June 23	Chap. 41	¶5-18
June 30	Chap. 42	¶1-15
July 7	Chap. 43	¶1-12
July 14	Chap. 43	¶13-23
July 21	Chap. 43	¶24–Chap. 44 ¶5
July 28	Chap. 44	¶6-19

[* Except for chart on p. 139]

How to Prepare a Magazine Presentation

[1] 'Why should we prepare magazine presentations,' you may wonder, 'since presentations appear in each issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry?*' While many have found these sample presentations to be helpful, personal preparation is still needed. A presentation that is effective in one territory may not be practical in another. Therefore, we should not feel obligated to present the magazines exactly as worded in the sample presentations. Even if we choose to use a sample presentation, it is best to put the thoughts in our own words.

[2] **Choose an Article:** Having first read the magazine, choose an article that is appropriate for your territory and that you especially enjoyed. Your conviction and enthusiasm when presenting the article may move the householder to want to read it too. Though you will likely feature an article that has wide appeal in the local territory, be well acquainted with the other articles in the magazine as well. This will allow you to adjust your presentation if you encounter someone who may be more interested in another subject.

[3] **Ask a Question:** Next, carefully prepare your opening words. Your introduction is important. It may be helpful to ask the householder a thought-provoking question to stimulate his interest in the article that you have chosen to feature. Viewpoint questions usually work best. Avoid asking something that could make the householder uncomfortable or defensive.

[4] **Read a Scripture:** Finally, choose a scripture to read if the householder's circumstances allow, perhaps one found in the article you will feature. Reading a scripture will help the householder to see that our message is from God's Word. (1 Thess. 2: 13) The scripture will also give him a witness even if he refuses the magazines. Some have awakened the householder's interest by reading a scripture before asking a specific question. You might introduce the scripture by saying, "I would like to get your opinion on what is stated in this Bible verse." Then call the person's attention to a related point in the magazine, and make a brief comment to stimulate his interest further before offering it.

[5] There are no rigid rules about what to say when offering the magazines. Generally, it is best to keep your presentation simple and brief. Use an approach that is comfortable for you and that gets good results. Focus on the excelling value of the magazines, and be enthusiastic. If you are well prepared, you will be more effective in placing *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* with those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life."—Acts 13:48.

1. Why is it better to prepare a personal magazine presentation rather than simply to memorize a sample given in *Our Kingdom Ministry?*
2. What is involved in determining which article you will feature?
3. What type of introduction do you use for the best results?
4. What are the benefits of reading a scripture to the householder when the circumstances allow?
5. What basic guidelines should you keep in mind when preparing a magazine presentation?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 15

"With so much corruption in the world, some wonder, 'Why should I fight so hard to do what's right?' Have you ever felt that way? [Allow for response.] Note these words of encouragement. [Read Proverbs 2:21, 22.] This magazine explains the most important reason for being upright."

Awake!® Nov.

"Some feel that God is responsible for everything that happens. When a tragedy occurs, they say that God must have had a good reason for causing it. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read James 1:13.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about the cause of suffering and what God is doing to end it."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 1

"Do you feel that this Bible prophecy is being fulfilled today? [Read Matthew 24:11. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses some teachings that have become popular. It also shows how we can avoid being deceived by false teachers."

Awake!® Dec.

"Whom would you pick as the greatest man who ever lived? [Allow for response.] Many regard Jesus as the greatest man. Notice what he will do for the earth as the Ruler of God's Kingdom. [Show the picture on pages 8-9, and read one of the highlighted scriptures.] This magazine discusses how and when Jesus will accomplish this."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2006 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/06 Vol. 49, No. 12

Do Not Lose the Love You Had at First

[1] The glorified Jesus counseled the first-century congregation in Ephesus: "I hold this against you, that you have left the love you had at first." (Rev. 2:4) Evidently, many had lost their first love for Jehovah. When we were learning the truth, we developed a strong love for God and neighbor, and this moved us to share our newfound hope with zeal. What will prevent us from losing the love we had at first and from slowing down in the ministry?

[2] **Personal Study and Meeting Attendance:** What caused us to develop love for God and neighbor when we first learned the truth? Was it not all that we learned about Jehovah from our study of the Scriptures? (1 John 4:16, 19) Therefore, so that our love "may abound yet more and more," we must continue taking in accurate knowledge, digging into "the deep things of God."—Phil. 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 2:10.

[3] Maintaining a good routine of personal study can be a real challenge in these last days filled with many anxieties and distractions. (2 Tim. 3:1) We must set aside time in our schedule to take in spiritual food. Attending congregation meetings regularly is also vital, especially as we "behold the day drawing near."—Heb. 10:24, 25.

[4] **The Ministry:** Zealous participation in the ministry helps us to keep our first love for God. As we preach the good news, we remind ourselves of Jehovah's loving promises, and this helps us to keep our hope bright and our love alive. Teaching Bible truths requires that we do research to understand them clearly ourselves, and this strengthens our faith.—1 Tim. 4:15, 16.

[5] Jehovah is deserving of all things, including our love. (Rev. 4:11) Do not allow yours to fade. Keep your first love strong by earnest personal Bible study, regular meeting attendance, and zealously declaring to others what is most dear to your heart.—Rom. 10:10.

Call Back on All Who Show a Measure of Interest

[1] Many of us are in the truth today because someone took note of our favorable response to the Kingdom message and patiently returned—perhaps a number of times—to cultivate that interest. We likewise should conscientiously call back on all who show a measure of interest. Really, making return visits is included in our commission to "make disciples."—Matt. 28:19, 20.

[2] **Discern Interest:** Even if an individual does not accept literature, his facial expression, tone of voice, or choice of words may reveal a measure of appreciation for the Kingdom message. On that basis we may make a return visit. One brother made calls on an individual for five consecutive weeks without placing literature. On the sixth visit, the person accepted literature, and eventually a Bible study was started.

[3] If you detect interest, return promptly, perhaps a few days later. Do not give "the wicked one" opportunity to snatch away what has been sown in the person's heart. (Matt. 13:19) Be sure to keep your word if you made arrangements to go back at a specific time.—Matt. 5:37.

[4] **In Street Work:** Do you endeavor to follow up on the interest you find while in street work or when witnessing informally? At the end of your conversation, you could say: "I enjoyed our discussion. Where can I reach you so that we can talk again?" When appropriate, some publishers may choose to give the interested person their phone number or ask to exchange phone numbers. If people see you in street work at the same location on a regular basis, they may not be reluctant to give you their phone number or address. Even if they refuse to give you contact information, you can still try to further their interest the next time you meet them on the street.

[5] When we see plants that we have watered and cultivated flourish, it brings us joy. Similarly, we can receive much joy by making return visits and helping individuals to progress spiritually. (1 Cor. 3:6) Make it your aim to call back on all who show a measure of interest.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 11

Song 174

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, show how to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm not interested."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 16.

15 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2007. Talk and interviews to be conducted by the school overseer. Discuss points needing emphasis locally from the October 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Explain that the school overseer does not announce in advance the speech quality that a student is working on. Since we will finish reading the Hebrew Scriptures from Isaiah 24 to the end of Malachi during 2007, this year will be an opportune time for brothers assigned to prepare Bible highlights and for others who offer comments to make use of our publications that illuminate these prophetic books. Interview two or three publishers from among the following: a new student, a young student who is making good progress, and an experienced student. Have them relate the effects of the school on their ministry and on their spirituality. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating in Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.*

20 min: "Do Not Lose the Love You Had at First."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

Song 193 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 18

Song 150

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Review Question Box. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1.

15 min: "Call Back on All Who Show a Measure of Interest."* Invite the audience to comment on how they have been able to obtain contact information from interested persons they have met when doing informal witnessing or street work and to relate any outstanding experiences from making return visits on such ones. One or two comments may be arranged in advance.

20 min: "A Volunteer Spirit Brings Blessings."* Interview one or two publishers who are noted for their volunteer spirit. How have they demonstrated a volunteer spirit? What adjustments were necessary, and how were they able to make these? What blessings have they enjoyed as a result?

Song 108 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 25

Song 210

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 or other presentations appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to offer the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* At the conclusion of each presentation, raise a thought-provoking question that can be answered on the next visit using the *Bible Teach* book.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Do You Have a Personal Territory?"* Include brief comments from the service overseer on the boundaries of the congregation's territory assignment, on how often the territory is being worked, and on the availability of personal territories.

Song 219 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 1

Song 158

Note: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 1 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. All congregations should consider the convention insert as scheduled. The Recommended Lodging List should be posted on the information board at the conclusion of the Service Meeting. If there is a circuit assembly this week, book study overseers should announce the convention location and dates at their regularly scheduled book studies. A copy of the Recommended Lodging List should be made available to each Congregation Book Study overseer so that those in attendance can write down the hotel phone numbers for making their reservations. However, copies of the list should not be made for publishers.

5 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for December.

15 min: Reporting on the Progress of the Ministry. Talk and audience discussion based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* from the subheading on page 83 to the end of the chapter.

25 min: "2007 'Follow the Christ!' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Before considering the insert, read the December 15, 2006, convention assignment letter. When considering paragraph 8 of the insert, read each point in the box "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." Encourage all to make their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 65 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	189	100.1	71.7	41.1	4.3
Pios.	97,014	56.5	32.3	17.4	1.9
Aux. Pios.	23,435	50.0	32.4	12.1	1.1
Pubs.	938,687	9.5	7.8	3.4	0.3
TOTAL	1,059,325			Baptized:	2,943

August proved to be a month of remarkable activity. We are happy to report a new peak in the total number of publishers! The total of 1,059,325 publishers reporting is an increase of 19,042 over the previous peak of 1,040,283 in August of 1998.

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2007 "Follow the Christ!" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] Moses provided direction for all Israelites and alien residents to assemble together every seven years to have the Law read to them. For what purpose? "In order that they may listen and in order that they may learn." (Deut. 31:10-12) Jehovah saw the need for assembling his people in large groups. Soon Jehovah's people will again be assembling for the three-day "Follow the Christ!" District Conventions.

[2] Have you started making preparations? Do you need to request time off from your employer? Can you help your Bible students or unbelieving family members to attend the convention with you? Are there others in the congregation who need assistance to attend? Are you planning to attend a convention different from the one to which your congregation is assigned? Will you need a hotel room? The following information will help you to prepare.

Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:20 a.m. - 5:05 p.m.
Sunday
9:20 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.

[3] **Attend All Three Days:** Jehovah provides an abundance of spiritual food for his people. (Isa. 25:6) This includes the spiritual banquet served at our annual conventions. It has been observed that the Friday attendance is considerably lower than that on other days. Make it your goal to enjoy all three of the refreshing convention days that Jehovah's organization has prepared for us! If you need to request time off from your secular employment, make it a matter of prayer. Then 'muster up boldness' to talk with your employer as soon as the date of your convention is announced. (1 Thess. 2:2; Neh. 2:4, 5) It may prove helpful to explain to him that your annual convention is part of your worship. Doing this at an early date may make it easier for your employer to make adjustments so as to accommodate your request.

[4] **Preparing Your Bible Students and Family:** What a pleasure it would be to have your Bible students attend the convention at your side, experiencing firsthand the warmth of our Christian brotherhood "in the large congregation"! (Ps. 22:25) Inform them well in advance so that they can set aside the time to attend. Share with them the reasons you personally enjoy attending the conventions. You can prepare the students for what to expect by showing them our videos that contain scenes of previous conventions, especially the video *United by Divine Teaching*. Let unbelieving family members also know your plans. Perhaps they can arrange to view the drama or attend at least one day of the convention with you.

1, 2. (a) How did Moses encourage the Israelites to benefit from assembling together? (b) What preparations do we need to begin making now?

3. (a) What fulfillment of Isaiah 25:6 is occurring today? (b) What has been observed regarding the Friday convention attendance, and what should we personally do?

4. How can we prepare our Bible students and unbelieving family members for the convention?

Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation:

1. Call hotels during regular business hours, using the telephone numbers on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Specify the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. If no more rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
5. *Do not* accept a higher rate than what is shown on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order *within ten days. Never* send cash. If a deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front.

Guidelines to Follow:

- Stay only in hotels on the *Recommended Lodging List.*
- Do not call hotels that are not on the list and ask if they have a rate for our convention. Call ONLY hotels on the recommended list.
- Hotels are not to begin taking reservations for our conventions before the Service Meeting during the week of January 1, 2007. Do not call for convention reservations prior to this time.
- Accept only the room rates shown on the list.
- Each room reserved should be in the name of the person who will actually occupy it.
- Use the reservation phone numbers on the list. Do not make your hotel reservation online unless the list indicates this should be done.
- To comply with fire regulations, do not exceed the number of adults allowed in the hotel room, as shown on the list.
- Do not inform your congregation secretary that there are no more rooms available unless you have called ALL the hotels on the list.
- Keep your first reservation.—Matt. 5:37.
- If you must cancel a reservation, do so as early as possible. Be sure to receive a cancellation number.

[5] **Assisting Your Brothers and Sisters:** The apostle Paul advised those Christians who were rich in a material way "to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share." (1 Tim. 6:17, 18) We can show the generous spirit that Paul espoused if we consider the situation of the elderly and infirm, those in full-time service, single-parent families, and perhaps others in the congregation who may need assistance to attend the convention. Filling the needs of such ones falls first on relatives in the truth, but the elders and others can show discernment and offer kind assistance as needed.—Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 5:4.

[6] If someone in the congregation needs help in obtaining accommodations, the Congregation Service Committee should decide if the publisher qualifies to submit a *Special Needs Room Request.* Before submitting this to the convention's Rooming Department, the guidelines found on the form and in the December 14, 2006, letter addressed to all bodies of elders should be consulted.

[7] **Attending Another Convention:** The March 1, 2007, *Watchtower* will contain a list of all the conventions in the United States and Canada. If you need the Recommended Lodging List or any additional information for a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, you may write the particular convention, using the address that the congregation secretary will find on the back of the current *Special Needs Room Request* form. So that the convention headquarters can reply to you, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your letter.

5, 6. (a) How can we demonstrate the generous spirit referred to at 1 Timothy 6:18? (b) What provision is made for helping some who may need assistance in obtaining accommodations?

7. What guidelines are provided if we need to attend a convention other than the one to which our congregation is assigned?

[8] **Reserving a Hotel Room:** A Recommended Lodging List of available hotels will be posted on the congregation information board at the conclusion of your Service Meeting for the week of January 1. Follow the instructions in the box "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." If no rooms are available after you have called *all* the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a particular hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should contact the convention Rooming Department, using the information at the top of the list. Do not call the branch office. If the hotels listed are not accepting additional requests, please wait for the congregation to receive a revised list for your convention rather than calling a hotel not on the list.

[9] **Cooperate With the Arrangements:** When we walk onto the convention site, it is evident that much work has gone into preparing for our arrival. Loving brothers serving as attendants greet us, provide us with programs, and assist us with locating seats. Brothers and sisters have cleaned the facility and arranged a beautiful stage. Vital work has also been accomplished behind the scenes to prepare program parts, negotiate with hotels, and care for numerous details.

[10] For each convention, many individuals have been working for months to make the needed arrangements, and their families have also contributed by allowing them the time to care for such important matters. Do we not appreciate the sacrifices that have been made for our personal benefit? We can show our gratitude by complying with the instructions in this article and with any further direction we may receive prior to our convention. (Heb. 13:17) The willing cooperation of everyone makes it possible for all things to "take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

[11] As we "behold the day drawing near," gatherings of God's people are all the more important. (Heb. 10:25) At our Christian conventions, the faithful and discreet slave class provides information to help us "take care to carry out all the words" that Jehovah wants us to follow. (Deut. 31:12) Start making plans now to attend all three days of the "Follow the Christ!" District Convention and thereby benefit from all the spiritual instruction and delightful fellowship!

8. What are the directions we are to follow when making hotel reservations? (See the box "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation.")

9, 10. (a) What preparations have been made for us before we arrive at the convention site? (b) How can we show appreciation and gratitude for all the work done in our behalf? (Read Hebrews 13:17.)

11. (a) Why are gatherings of Jehovah's people so important in our time? (b) What can each of us do now?

QUESTION BOX

■ Would it be appropriate to arrange yard sales or other fund-raising events to help the congregation?

It is common for religious organizations to sponsor fund-raising events, such as dinners, sales, or festivals. While some may feel that these are for a good cause, the events amount to forms of solicitation. Jehovah's Witnesses do not obtain financial support in that way.

The second issue of the *Watch Tower,* August 1879, said this about our refusal to imitate the churches and solicit funds: "'Zion's Watch Tower' has, we believe JEHOVAH for its backer, and while this is the case it will never *beg* nor *petition* men for support. When He who says: 'All the gold and silver of the mountains are mine,' fails to provide necessary funds, we will understand it to be time to suspend the publication."

We continue to follow the Scriptural principle: "Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) Contribution boxes are kept in the Kingdom Hall so that individuals can make voluntary donations if they wish. (2 Ki. 12:9) Contributions are not solicited; neither are they given with the idea of obtaining something in return.

A Volunteer Spirit Brings Blessings

[1] When Goliath taunted the battle lines of Israel, any of the soldiers could have fought him. But it was a shepherd boy, untrained in warfare, who volunteered. (1 Sam. 17:32) When the exiled Jews went back to Jerusalem but failed to rebuild the walls, it was a cupbearer to the king of Persia who volunteered to leave his privileged position in the palace and to travel to Jerusalem in order to organize the work. (Neh. 2:5) Jehovah blessed both of these men, David and Nehemiah, for the spirit they showed.—1 Sam. 17:45, 50; Neh. 6:15, 16.

[2] Today, the volunteer spirit is lacking in the world. In these "last days," people lead very busy lives, and many are "lovers of themselves." (2 Tim. 3: 1, 2) It is easy for a person to become so absorbed in personal interests that he overlooks opportunities to volunteer his services when there is a need to help others. However, as Christians, we desire to imitate Jesus, who took the initiative to help others. (John 5:5-9; 13:12-15; 1 Pet. 2:21) How can we demonstrate a volunteer spirit, and what blessings will we receive?

[3] **In Behalf of Our Brothers:** We can impart a "spiritual gift" to others by volunteering to comment when meeting parts call for audience participation. (Rom. 1:11) Commenting honors Jehovah, impresses the truth more firmly on our mind and heart, and adds to our enjoyment of the meetings. (Ps. 26:12) We can also volunteer to give a talk in the Theocratic Ministry School when a substitute is needed. This will help us to improve our teaching ability.

1. How did David and Nehemiah demonstrate a volunteer spirit?
2. Why should Christians demonstrate a volunteer spirit?
3. How does the volunteer spirit contribute to congregation meetings?

[4] Brothers can demonstrate the volunteer spirit by reaching out to care for responsibilities in the congregation. (Isa. 32:2; 1 Tim. 3:1) All can help to keep assemblies and conventions running smoothly by volunteering to work in the various departments. When we volunteer to work with the traveling overseer in the ministry or to provide a meal for him, this results in "an interchange of encouragement." (Rom. 1:12) When we offer to provide practical assistance to fatherless boys, widows, the sick and infirm, mothers with young children, and others in the congregation, we experience joy and Jehovah's favor.—Prov. 19:17; Acts 20:35.

[5] Another way for us to volunteer our time and effort is to assist in cleaning and maintaining the Kingdom Hall. In addition, because many people are coming into the truth, there is a growing need for new Kingdom Halls and volunteers to build them. One couple made themselves available to assist the local Regional Building Committee even though the couple were unskilled in the building trades. Over time, the couple were given training and now assist in laying bricks. The wife remarked: "Working side by side with others has resulted in very close friendships. At the end of the day, we are physically tired but spiritually refreshed."

4. What are some other ways that we can demonstrate the volunteer spirit?
5. What matters involving the Kingdom Hall require willing volunteers?

[6] **By Preaching:** The most important volunteer work that we can perform today is the Kingdom-preaching work. As people are helped to understand and apply the Bible's counsel, they gain a purpose in life and the strength to overcome harmful habits. They learn the Bible's uplifting hope for the future. By providing Bible education, we perform a joyful volunteer service with long-lasting benefits. (John 17:3; 1 Tim. 4:16) Perhaps our circumstances might allow us to have a greater share in this work by auxiliary or regular pioneering, by moving to where the need is greater, or by learning another language.

[7] King David prophesied that at the time the Messiah would begin his rulership, God's people would "offer themselves willingly." (Ps. 110:3, ftn.) With Jehovah speeding up the final spiritual harvest, there is much work for which to volunteer. (Isa. 60: 22) Have you said: "Here I am! Send me"? (Isa. 6:8) Truly, by our demonstrating the volunteer spirit, we please Jehovah and reap rich rewards.

6. Why is the ministry the most important volunteer work we can perform?
7. Why is volunteering especially important today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** The *Knowledge* book or any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have these books may offer the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure. **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Worship God* book. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts for the months of September, October, and November. When this has been done, an announcement should be made to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.—See *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

■ The Memorial invitations for 2007 in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested as soon as possible on a *Literature Request Form* (S-14). A listing of the languages in which Memorial invitations are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year 2008 will be on Saturday, March 22, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building. Because of the importance of the Memorial observance, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders to be the speaker instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. However, if there is a capable elder of the anointed who can give the talk, he should be selected.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following review questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 25, 2006. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 6 through December 25, 2006. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What should guide our decision in selecting appropriate comments to introduce a scripture? [*be* p. 148 par. 4–p. 149 par. 1]
2. What are some methods we can employ to ensure proper emphasis on our words and expressions? [*be* p. 151 par. 4–p. 152 par. 3]
3. Since it is a serious thing to teach others God's Word, what is required if we are to 'handle the word of the truth aright'? (2 Tim. 2:15) [*be* p. 153 pars. 1-3, box; p. 154 pars. 1-2]
4. In what ways can we make clear the application of scriptures we read? [*be* p. 154 par. 4–p. 155 par. 3]
5. Why is it vital to make the practical value of our material clear, and what are some ways that this can be accomplished? [*be* p. 157 pars. 1-4, box; p. 158 par. 1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. In what sense was Solomon a congregator? [*si* p. 112 pars. 1-3]
7. How does Ecclesiastes harmonize with the teachings of Jesus? [*si* p. 114 par. 16]
8. What evidence is there for the canonicity of the Song of Solomon? [*si* p. 115 pars. 3-4]
9. How does the Dead Sea Scroll of Isaiah give convincing proof that our Bible today represents the original inspired writing? [*si* p. 118 par. 6]
10. What can help a speaker to eliminate his need for extensive notes? [*be* p. 42 par. 1]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How is it that "those who are seeking Jehovah can understand everything"? (Prov. 28:5)
12. How does 'the hard work of the stupid ones make them weary'? (Eccl. 10:15)
13. How did the Shulammite maiden prove to be like "a garden barred in," and how is she a fine example for unmarried Christian women? (Song of Sol. 4:12)
14. By inviting the Israelites to "set matters straight," was Jehovah indicating that he was willing to negotiate a reasonable settlement with his people? (Isa. 1:18a)
15. How was Isaiah 11:6-9 fulfilled in ancient times, and what is the larger fulfillment?

Do You Have a Personal Territory?

[1] A personal territory is one that is assigned to you. It may be conveniently located so that you can reach it quickly and preach either alone or with another publisher. While it is beneficial to support congregation arrangements for group witnessing when possible, having a personal territory to work on other occasions can help in giving a thorough witness, especially in congregations that have a large amount of territory.—Acts 10:42.

[2] **Benefits:** Some have found additional benefits preaching in a personal territory near their workplace during their lunch break or immediately after work. Others have enjoyed working together as a family in their neighborhood for an hour or so before the Congregation Book Study. As a result, the return visits and Bible studies obtained were in a nearby area, resulting in an economy of effort, time, and expense. Because more can be accomplished in less time, having a personal territory may help some to auxiliary pioneer from time to time or even to enroll as regular pioneers. In addition, working a personal territory and becoming familiar with the householders can assist us in gaining their trust and tailoring our presentation to their concerns, making our ministry more effective.

[3] One pioneer who was encouraged by the circuit overseer to obtain a personal territory relates: "I accepted this advice and soon became well acquainted and friendly with the householders in my territory. I adjusted the times of my visits according to their convenience. As a result, my return visits rose from 35 to over 80 a month, and I have seven home Bible studies."

[4] **How to Do It:** If you want to request a personal territory, speak to the territory servant. Feel free to invite another publisher to work along with you, and keep a record of the not-at-homes. You should try to complete the territory within four months. If you have difficulty doing so, you may ask your Congregation Book Study overseer or others for assistance. At the end of four months, you can either return the completed territory or ask to work it again. However, you should not keep the same territory indefinitely but return it so that others may request it. If you are in a congregation where territory is limited and it is not possible to obtain a personal territory, perhaps you can request a portion of a territory from your book study overseer.

[5] Our commission to preach "in all the inhabited earth" is a daunting assignment. (Matt. 24:14) It requires good coordination of effort. Supplementing group witnessing with preaching in a personal territory can help us to reach as many people as possible with the good news.

1. What is a personal territory?
2. What are some benefits of having a personal territory?
3. What was the experience of one pioneer who obtained a personal territory?
4. How may you obtain and work a personal territory?
5. What is required in order to fulfill our commission to preach?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 15

"During this time of year, many people reflect on what the angels announced at Jesus' birth. [Read Luke 2:14.] Do you think that peace on earth will really come about? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses how Jesus will soon bring true peace to the earth."

Awake!® Dec.

"There are conflicting religious opinions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. How do you think God feels about their use? [Allow for response.] Though Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine, the Bible also gives this warning. [Read Proverbs 20:1.] This article explains the Bible's balanced viewpoint on the matter." Feature the article that begins on page 18.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Jan. 1

"Do you feel that a person's success can be measured by the amount of wealth he possesses? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Timothy 6:9, 10.] While the Bible does not condemn money, it does indicate that real success is not dependent upon wealth. This magazine explains that."

Awake!® Jan.

"Do you think that we will ever see this come true? [Read Isaiah 33:24. Then allow for response.] This magazine explains what medical science is accomplishing and how the Bible's promise will be fulfilled."